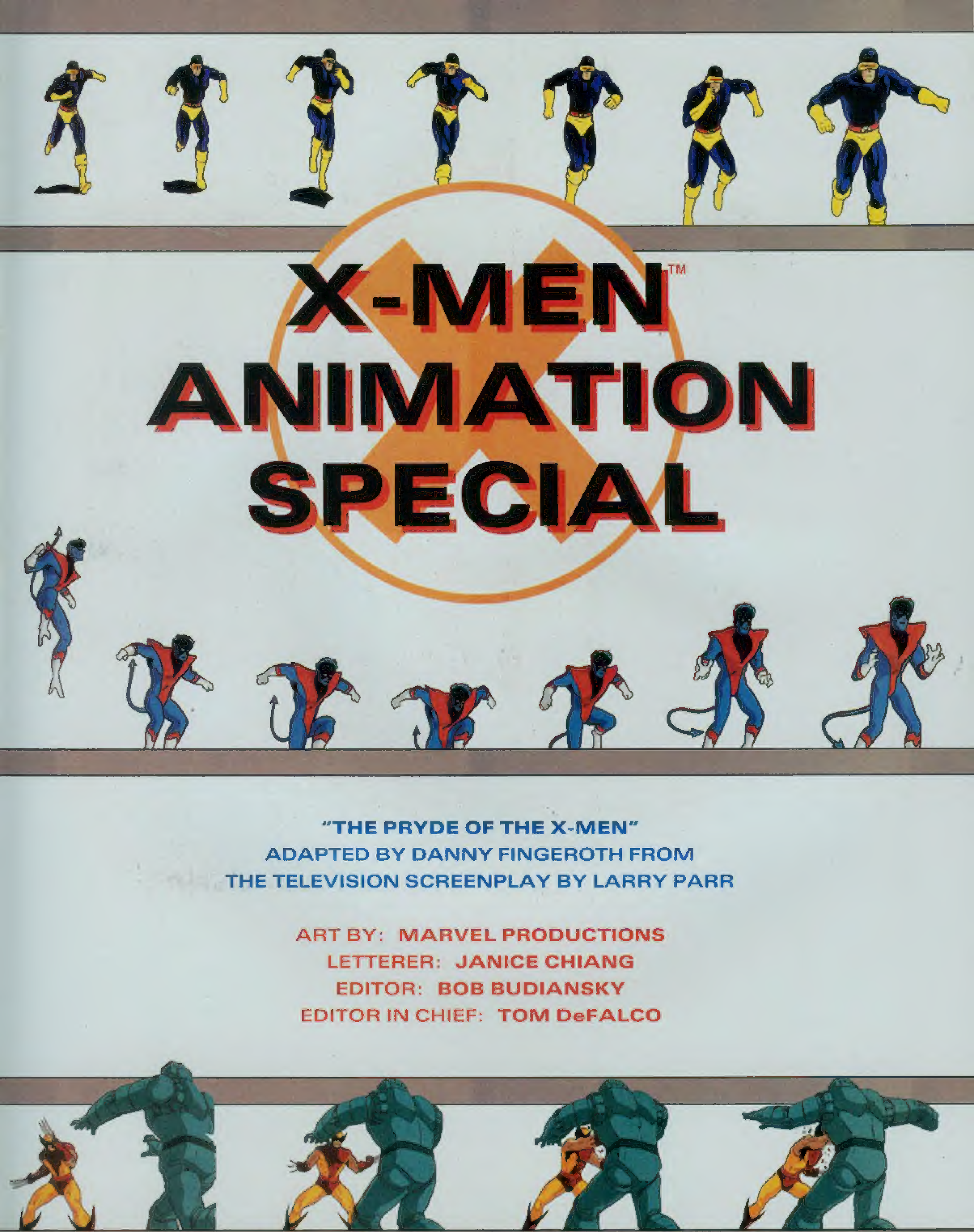
ANIMATION SPECIAL

X-MEN®

MARVEL® GRAPHIC NOVEL



"THE PRYDE OF THE X-MEN"
ADAPTED BY DANNY FINGEROTH FROM
THE TELEVISION SCREENPLAY BY LARRY PARR

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The X-MEN® Animation Special Graphic Novel.

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A COOL, CLEAR NIGHT IN THE NEVADA DESERT. THE OMINOUS SONG OF A COYOTE IS HEARD--

--THEN CUT SHORT AS MAN-MADE SOUND AND LIGHT INTRUDE.

IT IS A MILITARY CONVOY EN ROUTE TO A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON WITH A MOST DANGEROUS CARGO...

MUTANTS. I HATE 'EM.

TAKE THIS ONE WE'RE HAULIN', FOR EXAMPLE...

HE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO LIVE!

HE LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL GUY--BUT HIS GENES ARE TWISTED UP OR SOMETHIN'--AND HE CAN DO STUFF THAT SCARES THE STUFFIN' OUTTA ME!

ESPECIALLY WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT TAKIN' OVER THE WORLD AND MAKIN' ALL OF US SLAVES...!

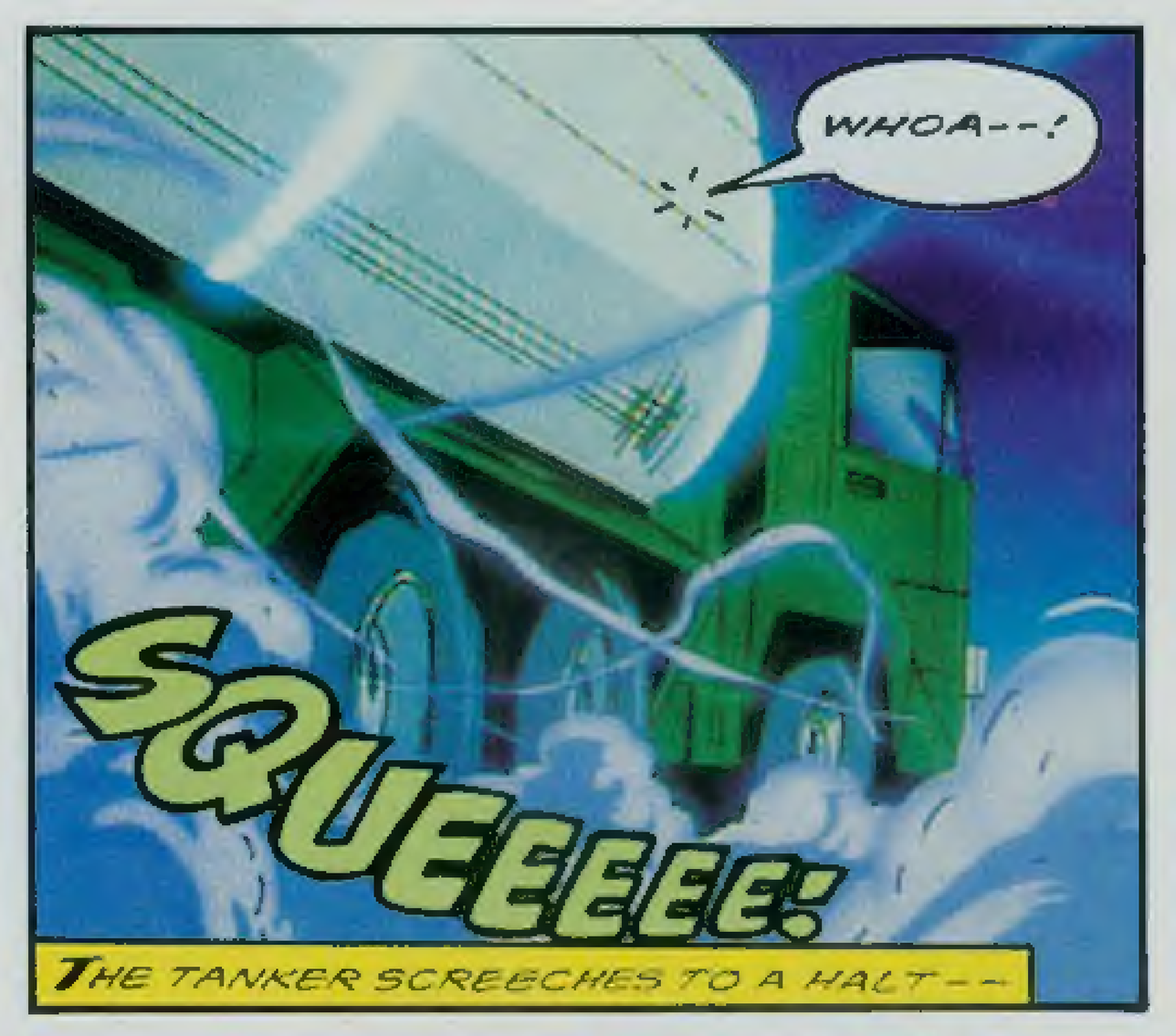
WELL, I SAY WE SHOULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER. WE GOTTA GET THEM BEFORE THEY GET US!

YEAH, BUT THERE'S TOO MANY OF 'EM! AND WE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE!

RELEASE ME! I COMMAND IT!

I AM MAGNETO!

YOU'RE A MUTANT, FRIEND, A DIRTY, STINKIN' MUTANT!
YOU DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE ON THE SAME PLANET WITH US NORMAL, DECENT HUMAN BEINGS.
NEVER FEAR, COLONEL CHAFFEE. VERY SOON, HUMANS WILL NO LONGER HAVE A PLACE ON PLANET EARTH!
WHY, YOU STINKIN' MUT--


WHOA--!
SQUEEEEE!
THE TANKER SCREECHES TO A HALT--

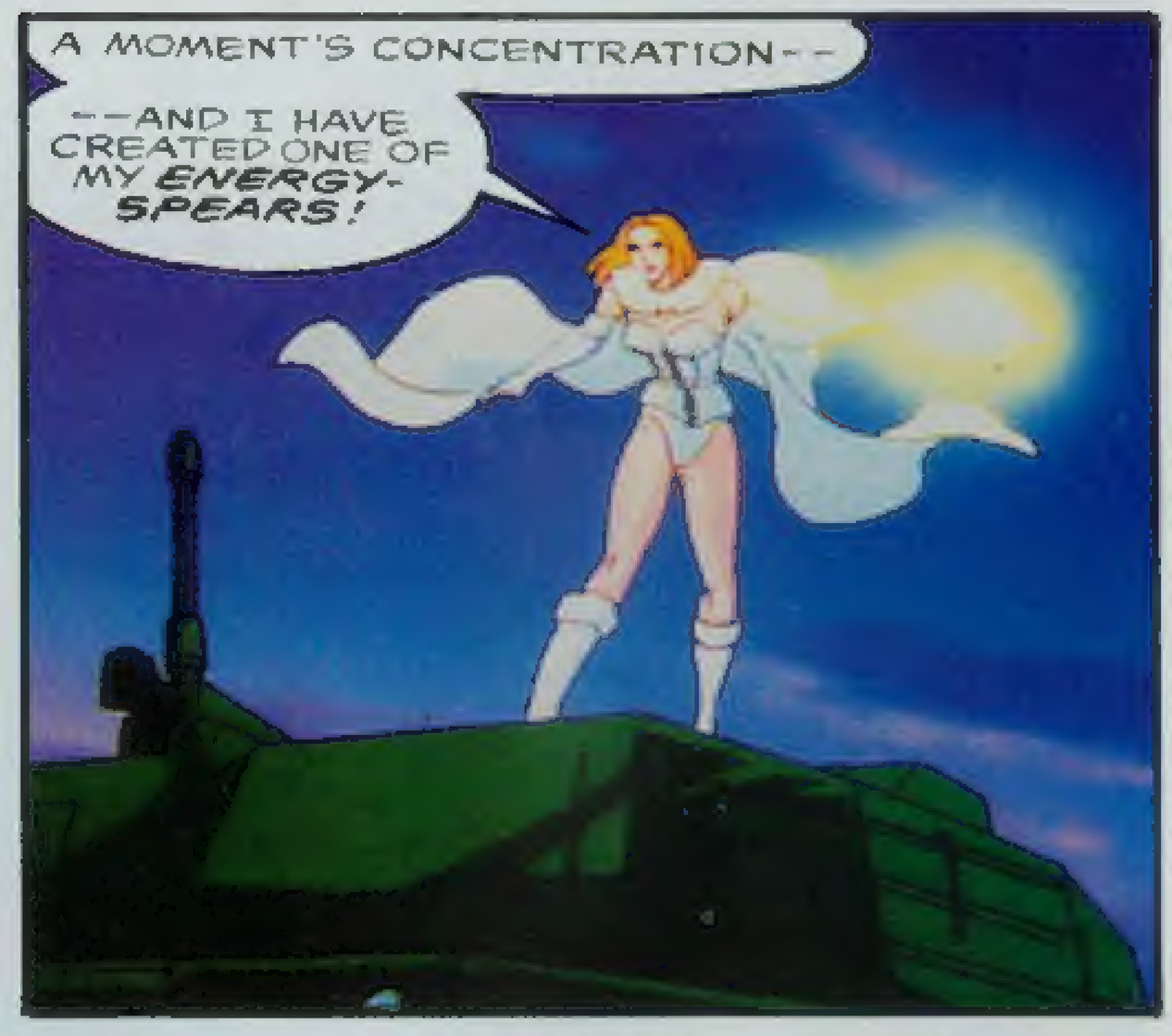
--AND SUDDENLY, ALL IS CHAOS!
COLONEL CHAFFEE! COLONEL CHAFFEE! COME IN! PLEASE!
WHAT IS IT, SOLDIER? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THE CONVOY SIR...

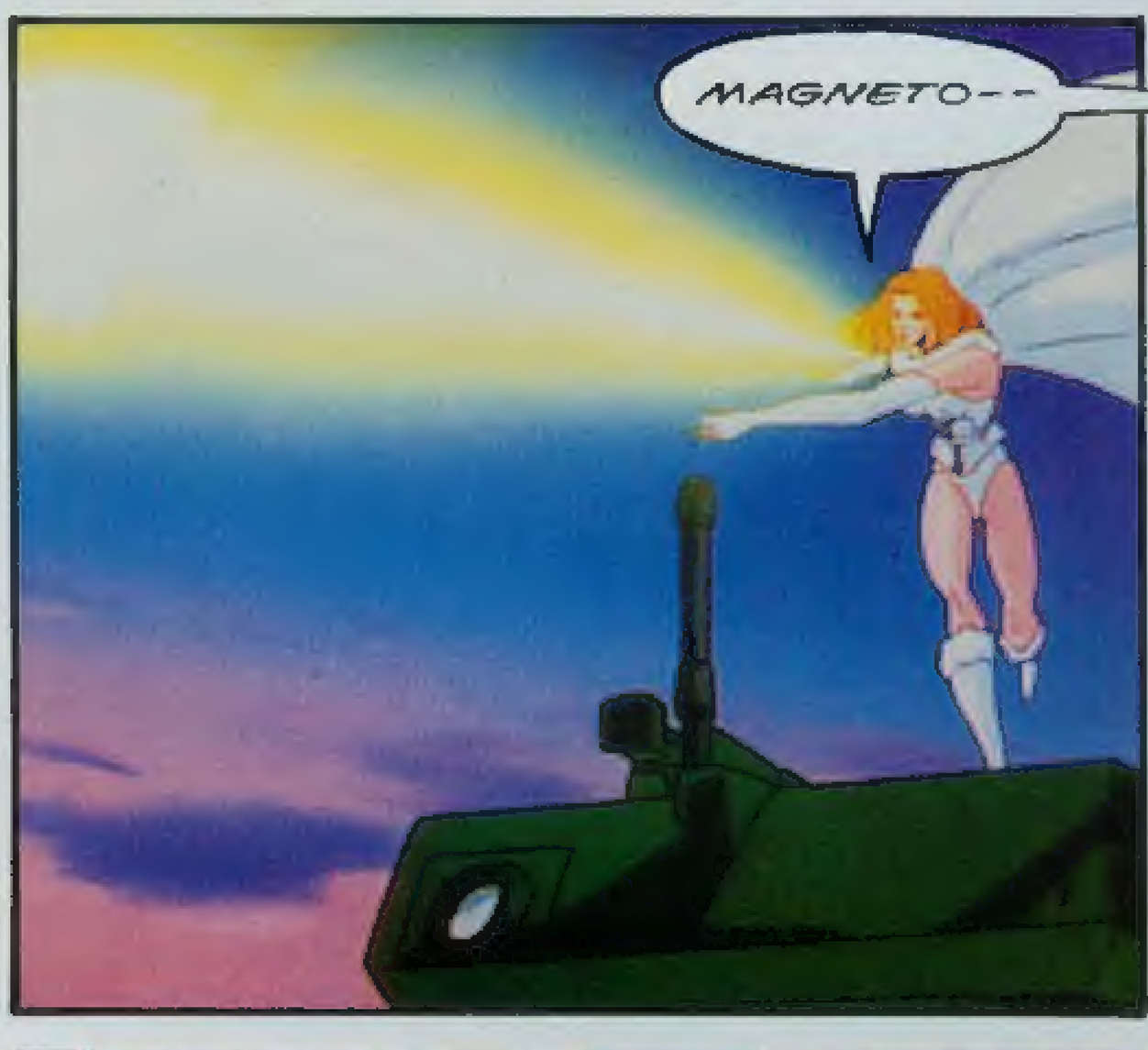
"...IT'S SINKING!"
"SINKING?! YOU IDIOT! WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT! THERE'S NO WATER--"
"NOT WATER, SIR. IT'S THE HIGHWAY! IT'S TURNING INTO...
"...QUICKSAND!"

AND, HOVERING JUST ABOVE THE CONVOY...
MEN ARE SO HELPLESS...
...AGAINST THE MENTAL POWERS...
...OF THE WHITE QUEEN!

"BUT, WITH THE CONVOY HALTED AND THE TROOPS CONFUSED, MY ILLUSION HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE.
"WITH THE MEREST THOUGHT, I RETURN THINGS TO NORMAL--"

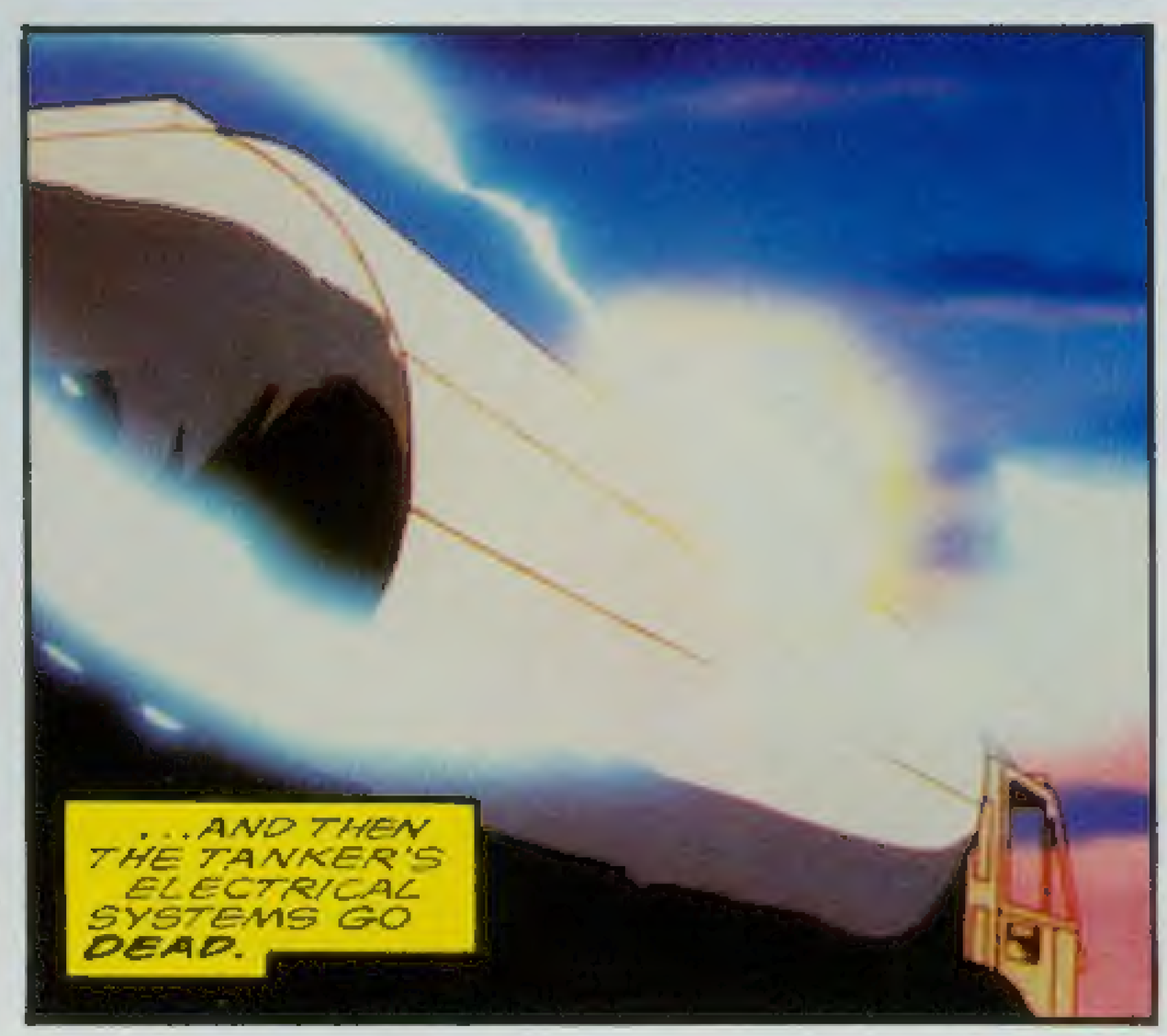
--SO THAT MY REAL WORK CAN BEGIN!


A MOMENT'S CONCENTRATION--
--AND I HAVE CREATED ONE OF MY ENERGY-SPEARS!


MAGNETO--

--YOUR DELIVERANCE IS AT HAND!
THE SPEAR REACTS VIOLENTLY WITH THE ENERGY-BANDS WHICH SURROUND THE TANKER...

THERE IS THE LIGHT AND HEAT OF A FIERCE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THEM...


...AND THEN THE TANKER'S ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS GO DEAD.

THE ENERGY-TUBE THAT SURROUNDS ME IS DISAPPEARING--
I AM FREE!

STAY BACK! I'M WARNING YOU--!

GIVE ME THAT TOY!
WH-WHA--?!

SHRANG!
THERE! THAT'S ONE WEAPON WHICH WILL NEVER MENACE ANOTHER MUTANT AGAIN!

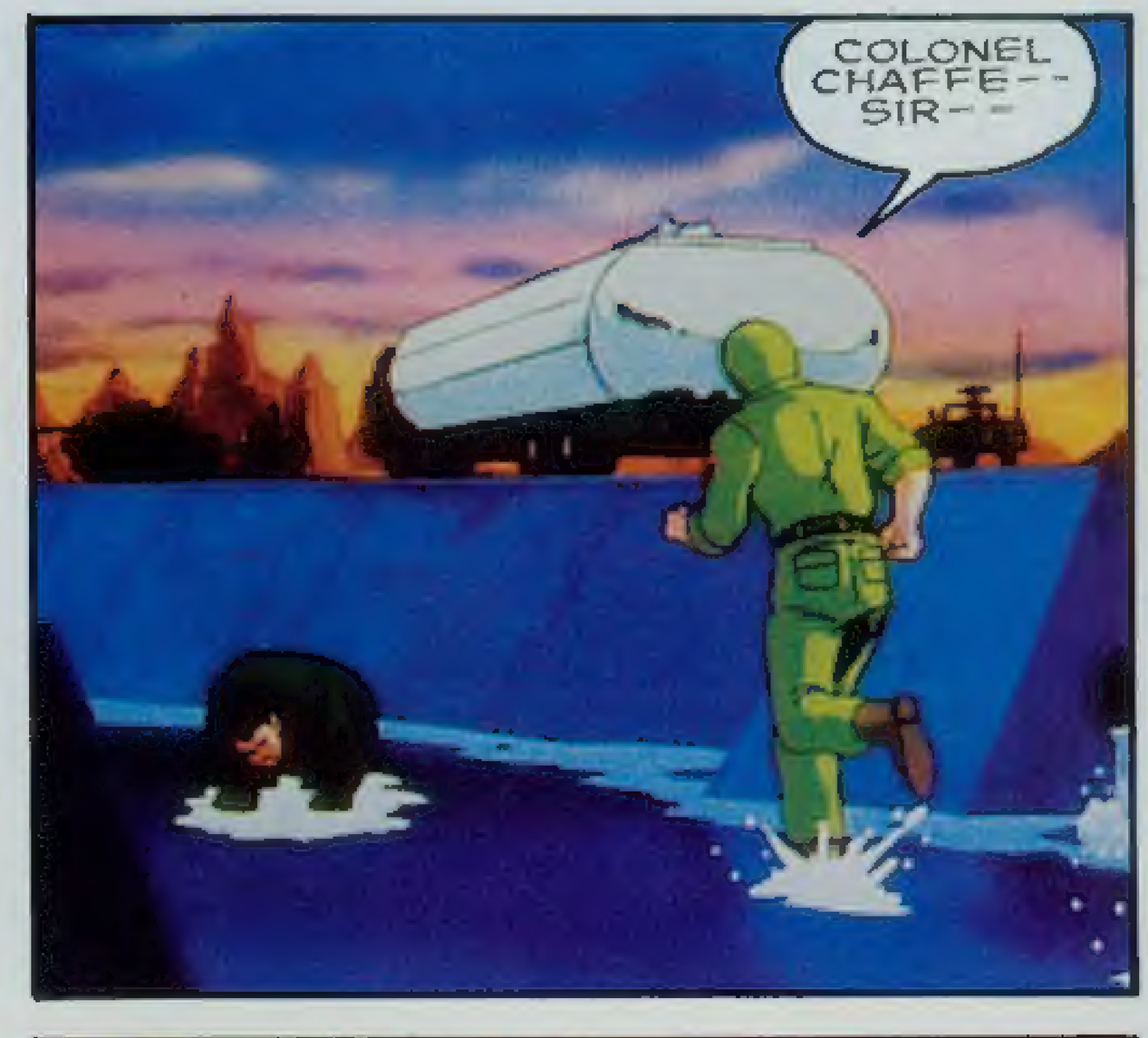
H-HEY--! WHAT ARE YOU D-DOING--?!
MERELY DEMONSTRATING MY POWER, COLONEL--

--AND DISPOSING OF A GNAT!

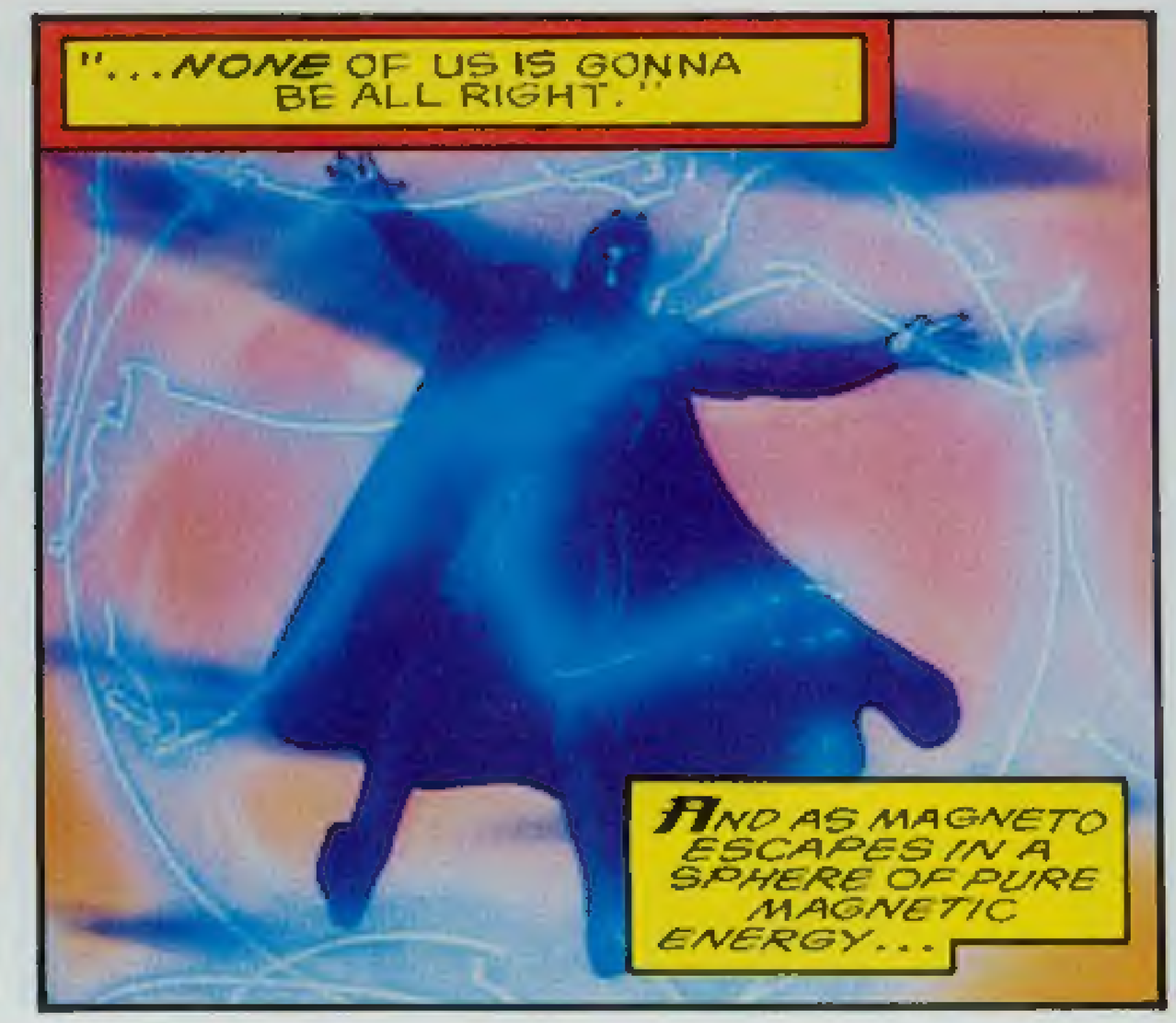
SMOOOM!

NOOOOOOOOOO!

SPLOOSH!


COLONEL CHAFFE-- SIR--

--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOTHING'S BROKEN, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN, SON.
BUT WITH THAT MURDEROUS MUTANT ON THE LOOSE...


"...NONE OF US IS GONNA BE ALL RIGHT."
AND AS MAGNETO ESCAPES IN A SPHERE OF PURE MAGNETIC ENERGY...

IN *THREE DAYS*, EARTH SHALL BE *CLEANSED* AND MADE READY FOR... *US!* A NEW DAY DAWNS...

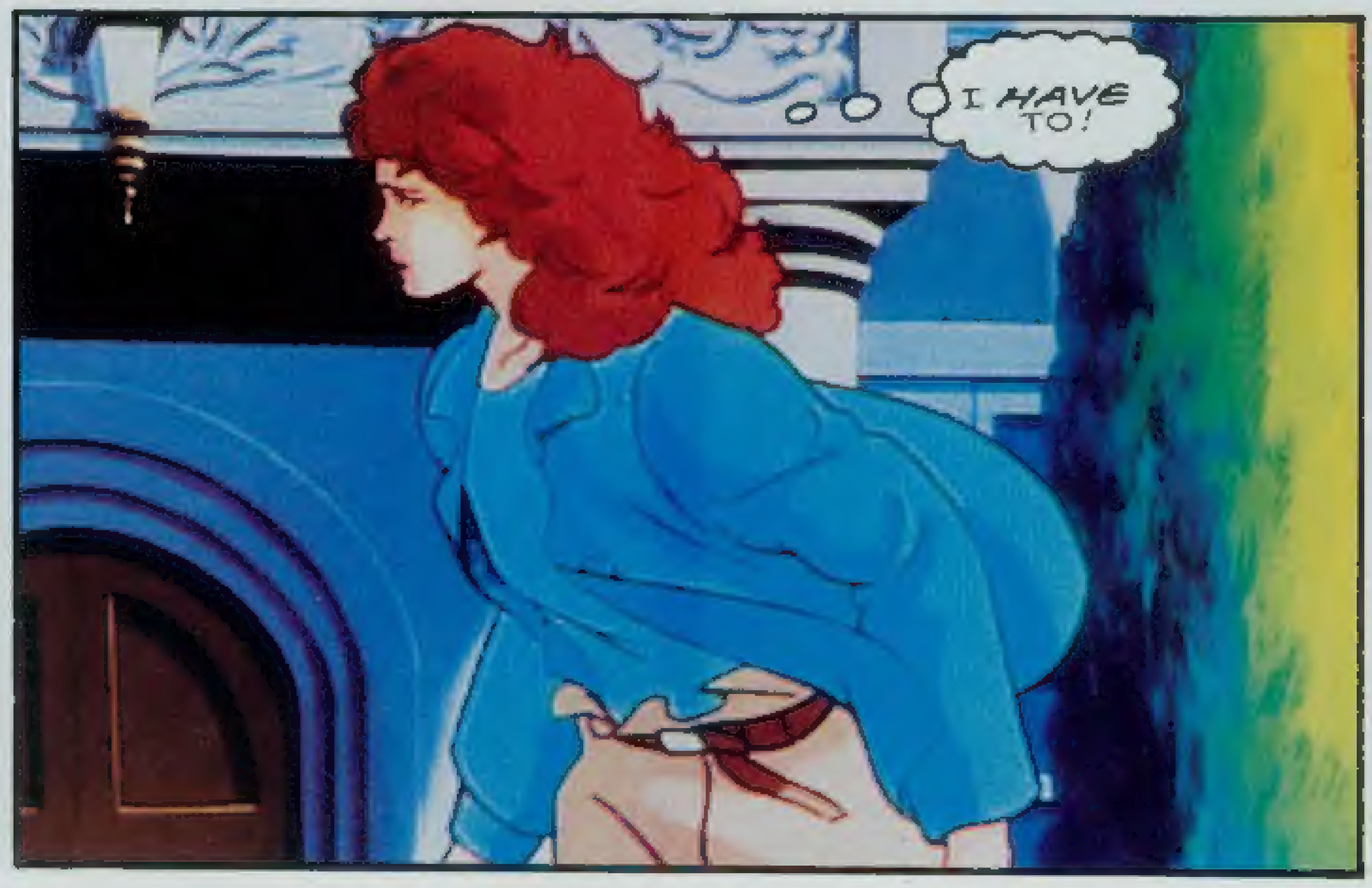
THE DAY OF THE MUTANTS!

THE NEXT MORNING IN NEW YORK'S WESTCHESTER COUNTY...

H-HERE IT IS KID... THE PLACE YOU W-WANTED.

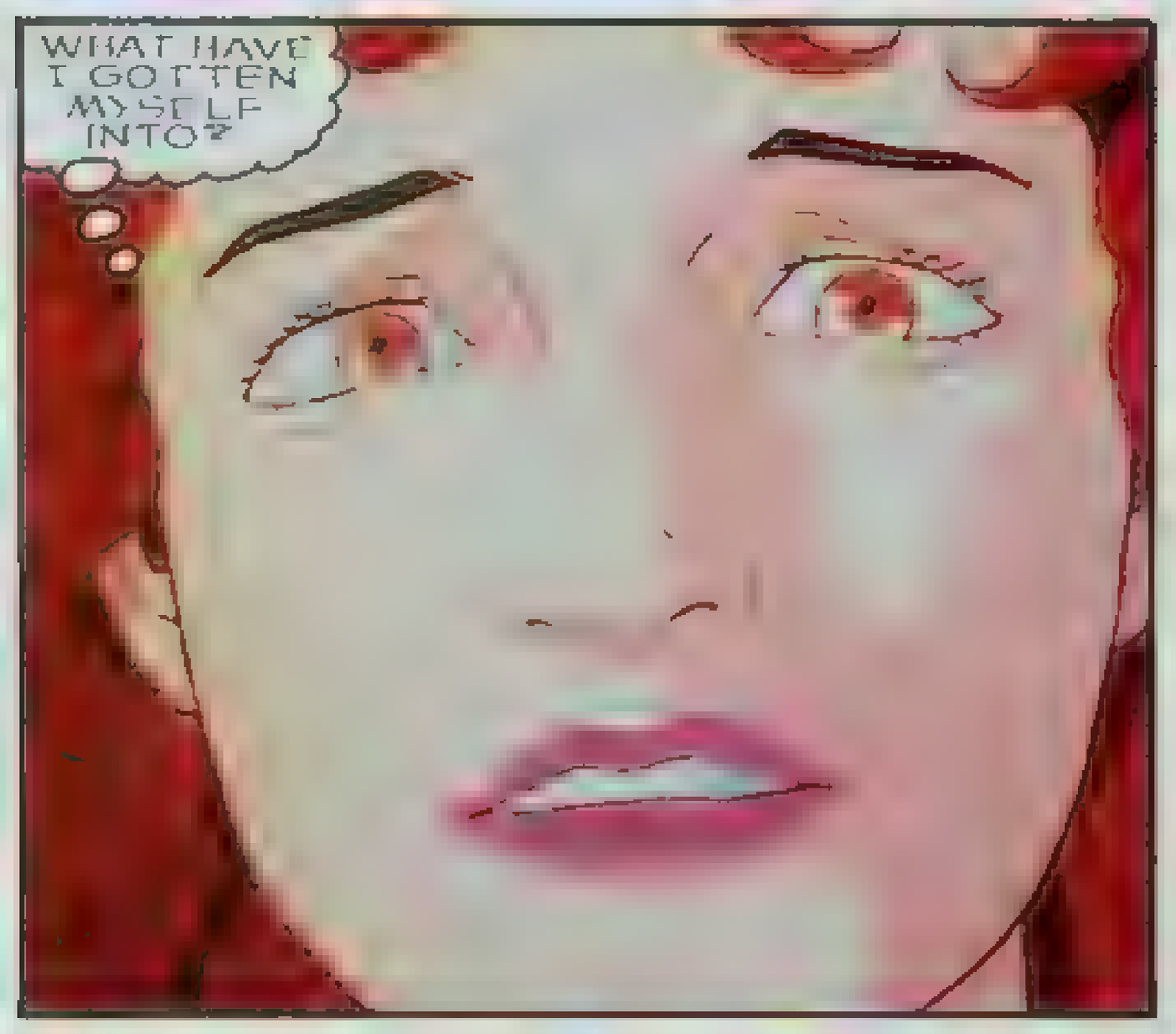
WOULD YOU WAIT HERE FOR ME?

FORGET IT, KID. THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE *C-CREEPS!*



WHOA--! THE DOORS-- THEY OPENED BY THEMSELVES!

WHO--WHAT ARE YOU?!
A FRIEND. MY MIND IS PROJECTING AN IMAGE OF MYSELF FOR YOU TO FOLLOW.

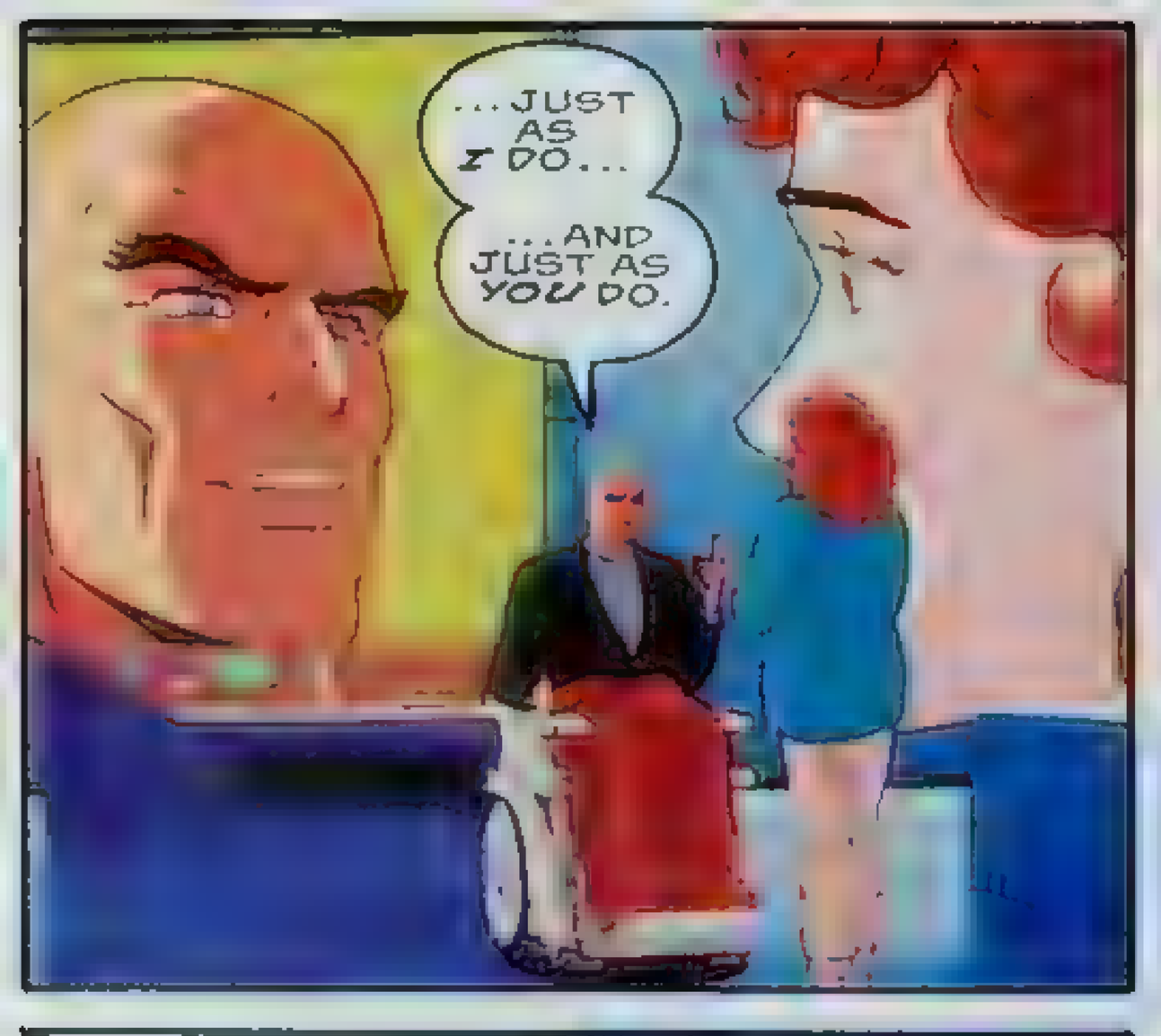

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?

I AM PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER, ALSO KNOWN AS PROFESSOR X.
I AND THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED ME ARE KNOWN AS -

PROFESSOR! WHERE'D YOU GO?!
OVER HERE CHILD!

WOW! WHAT A PLACE!
IS THAT-- IS THAT THE REAL YOU?!

YES, KITTY IT'S THE "REAL" ME NOW, AS I WAS SAYING, I AND THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED ME ARE KNOWN AS .
..THE X-MEN.
THE X-MEN! BUT--BUT I THOUGHT THE X-MEN WERE--
MUTANTS? YES.
EACH X-MAN HAS A SPECIAL MUTANT SKILL..


...JUST AS I DO...
...AND JUST AS YOU DO.

HOW- HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT... ABOUT WHAT I CAN DO?!

ALL THE THINGS YOU MENTION IN THIS LETTER...NO ONE KNOWS...NOT EVEN MY PARENTS.
LET ME EXPLAIN. SOME OF THE THINGS I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU MAY SEEM FANTASTIC AT FIRST...

...BUT I ASSURE YOU, THEY'RE TRUE...
COME OVER HERE WITH ME..

THIS MACHINE IS CEREBRO, A POWERFUL COMPUTER WITH A SPECIAL CIRCUIT THAT CAN DETECT THE UNIQUE BRAIN WAVES EMITTED BY MUTANTS...
...MUTANTS SUCH AS YOURSELF.

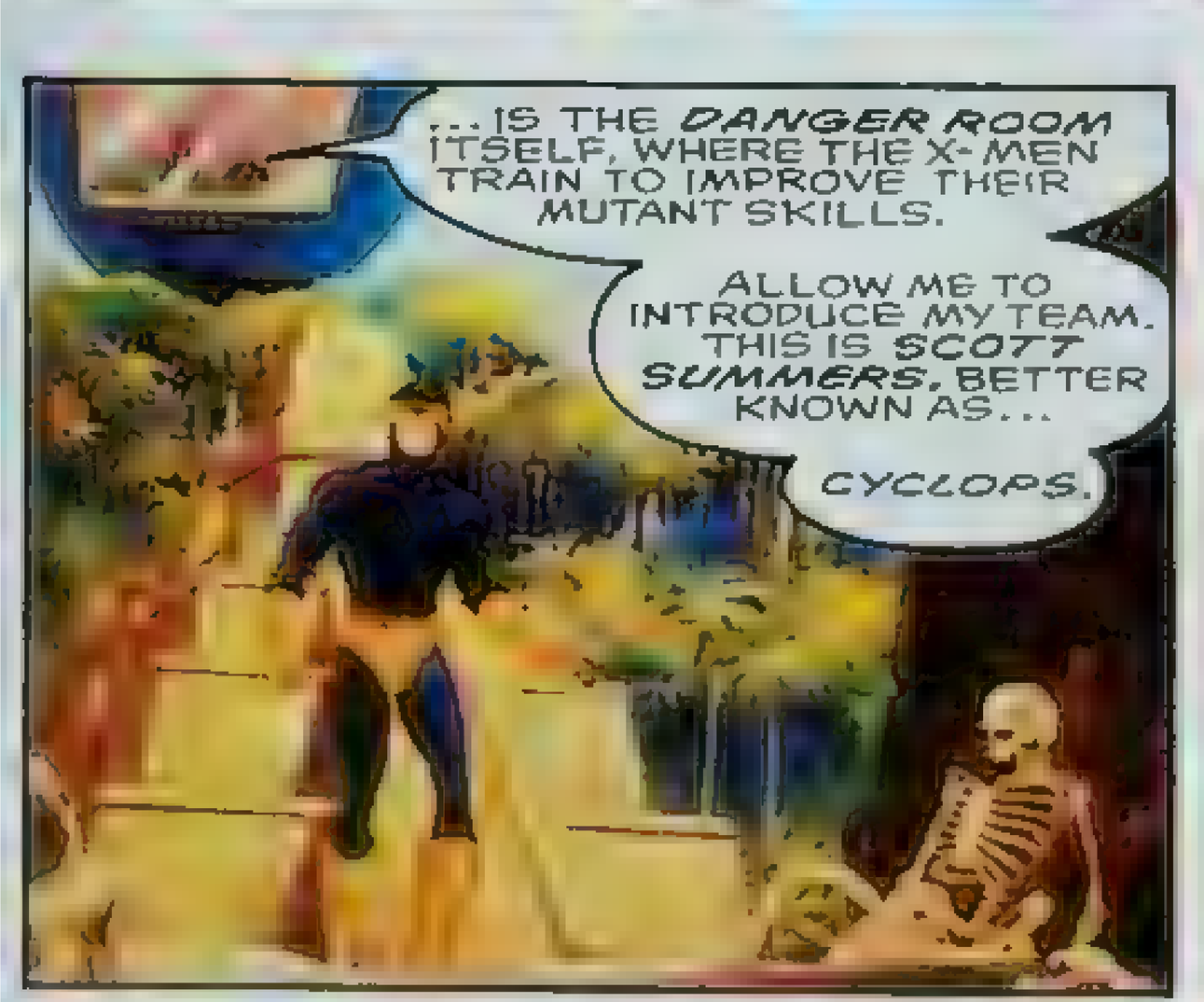
THEN-- I REALLY AM A...A MUTANT?
I'M...I'M A FREAK!

NO, NO, MY DEAR. WE MUTANTS ARE NOT FREAKS.
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, PROFESSOR...
...AND I'M AFRAID-- REALLY SCARED.

WE WERE ALL AFRAID WHEN WE FIRST DISCOVERED OUR POWERS, KITTY.
COME. I THINK IT IS TIME TO MEET THE OTHERS. .

SOON...
THIS IS THE DANGER ROOM CONTROL CENTER, KITTY AND DOWN THERE...


...IS THE DANGER ROOM ITSELF, WHERE THE X-MEN TRAIN TO IMPROVE THEIR MUTANT SKILLS.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY TEAM. THIS IS SCOTT SUMMERS, BETTER KNOWN AS...
CYCLOPS.

"SCOTT HAS MERE SECONDS TO SAVE HIMSELF FROM THAT GIANT ATTACKING ROBOT.

"WHEN CYCLOPS RAISES HIS RUBY QUARTZ VISOR ..

". . .HIS EYES SHOOT CONCENTRATED BEAMS...

" ..OF PURE *ENERGY!*

SHWROOM!

"SCOTT HAS *SURVIVED* HIS TEST. NOW LET'S LOOK IN ON

"...*PETER RASPUTIN,* CODE-NAMED. .

"...*COLOSSUS.*

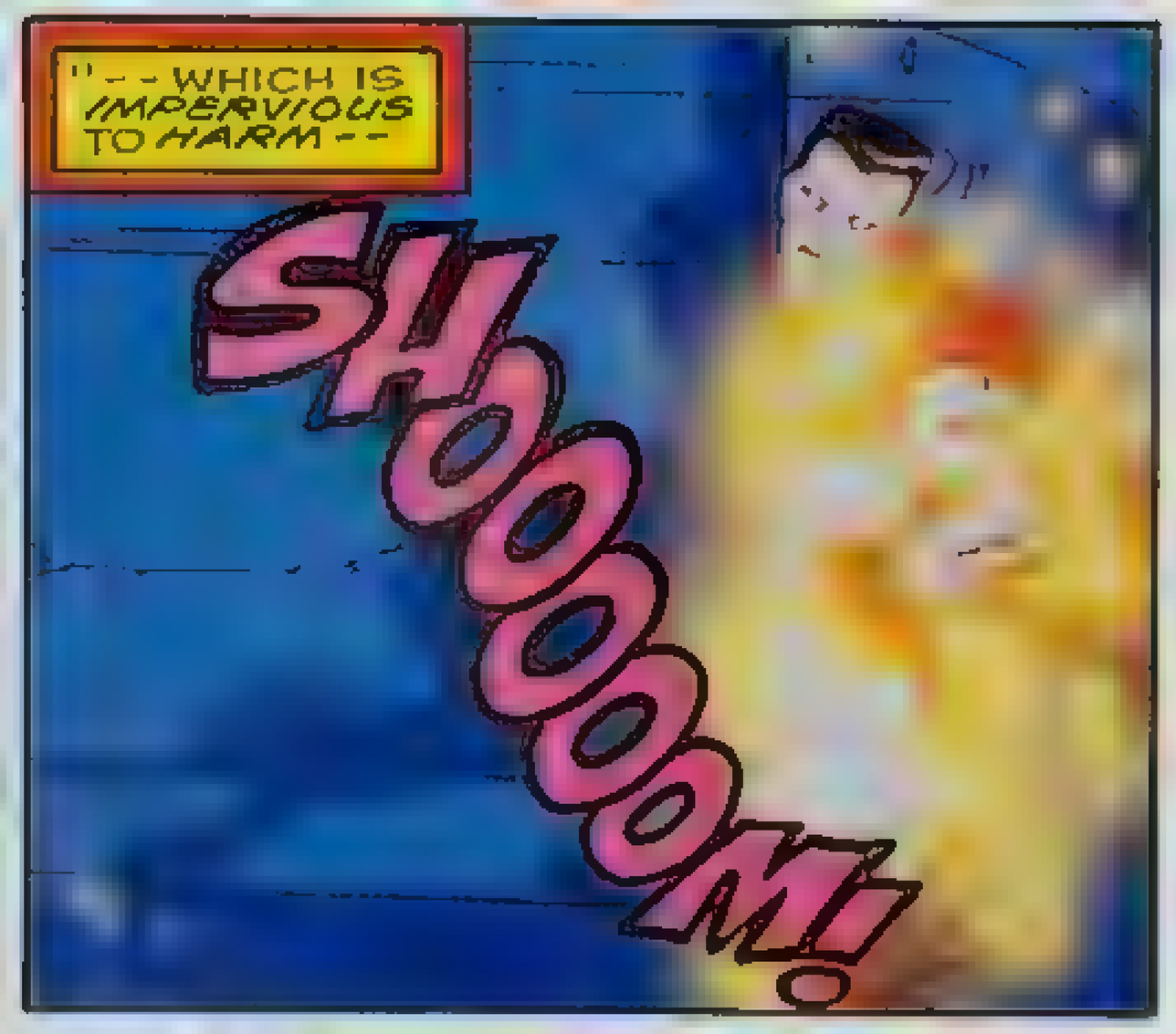
"AS PETER EXPLORES THESE RUINS, HE TRIPS OFF *BOOBY-TRAPS*--STONE PILLARS SHOOTING ACROSS THE ROOM FROM ALL DIRECTIONS

" AT *LETHAL* SPEED.

WHAMM!

"BUT COLOSSUS CAN CHANGE HIS BODY'S MOLECULES--

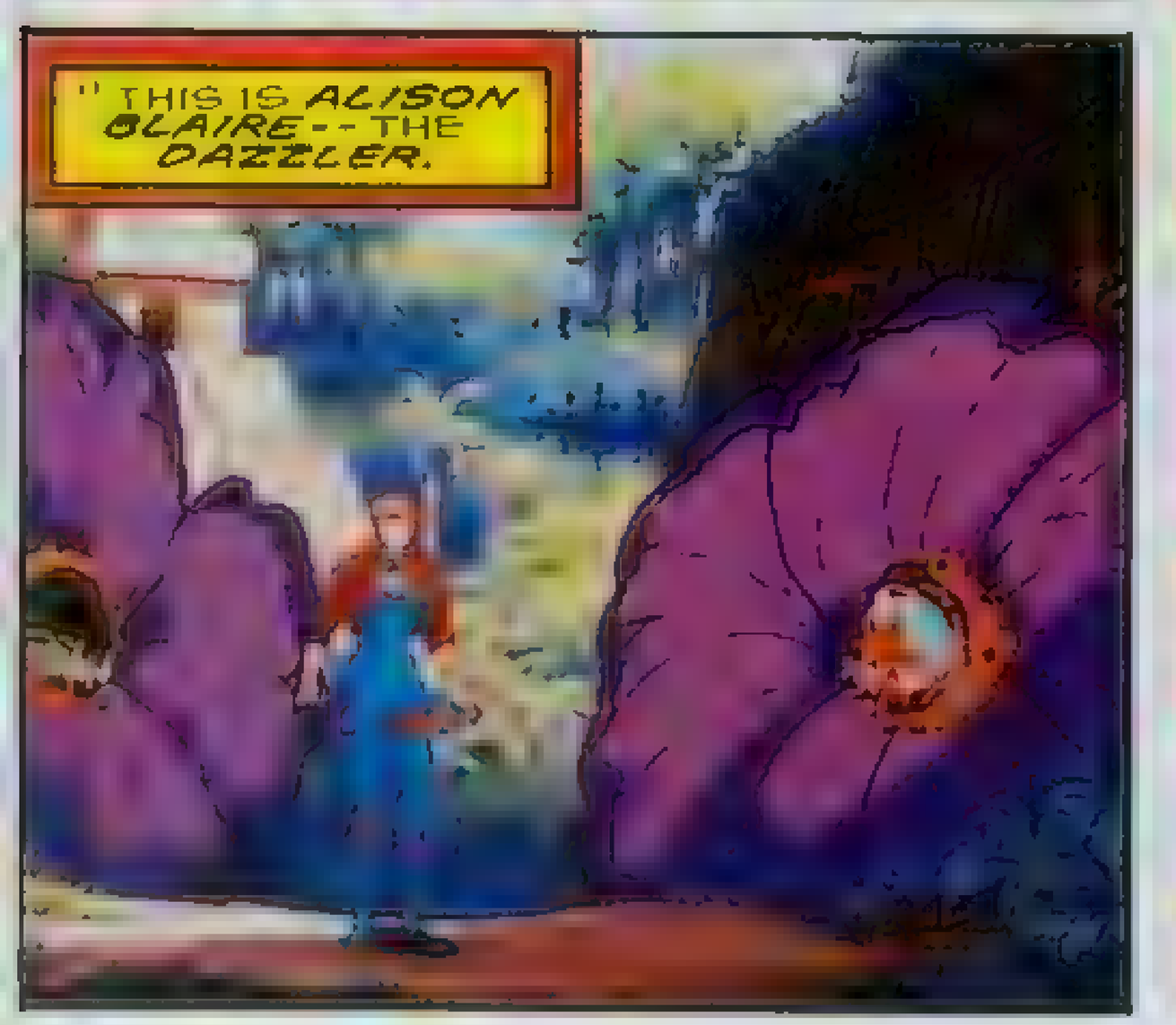
" INTO A *STEEL-LIKE* SUBSTANCE

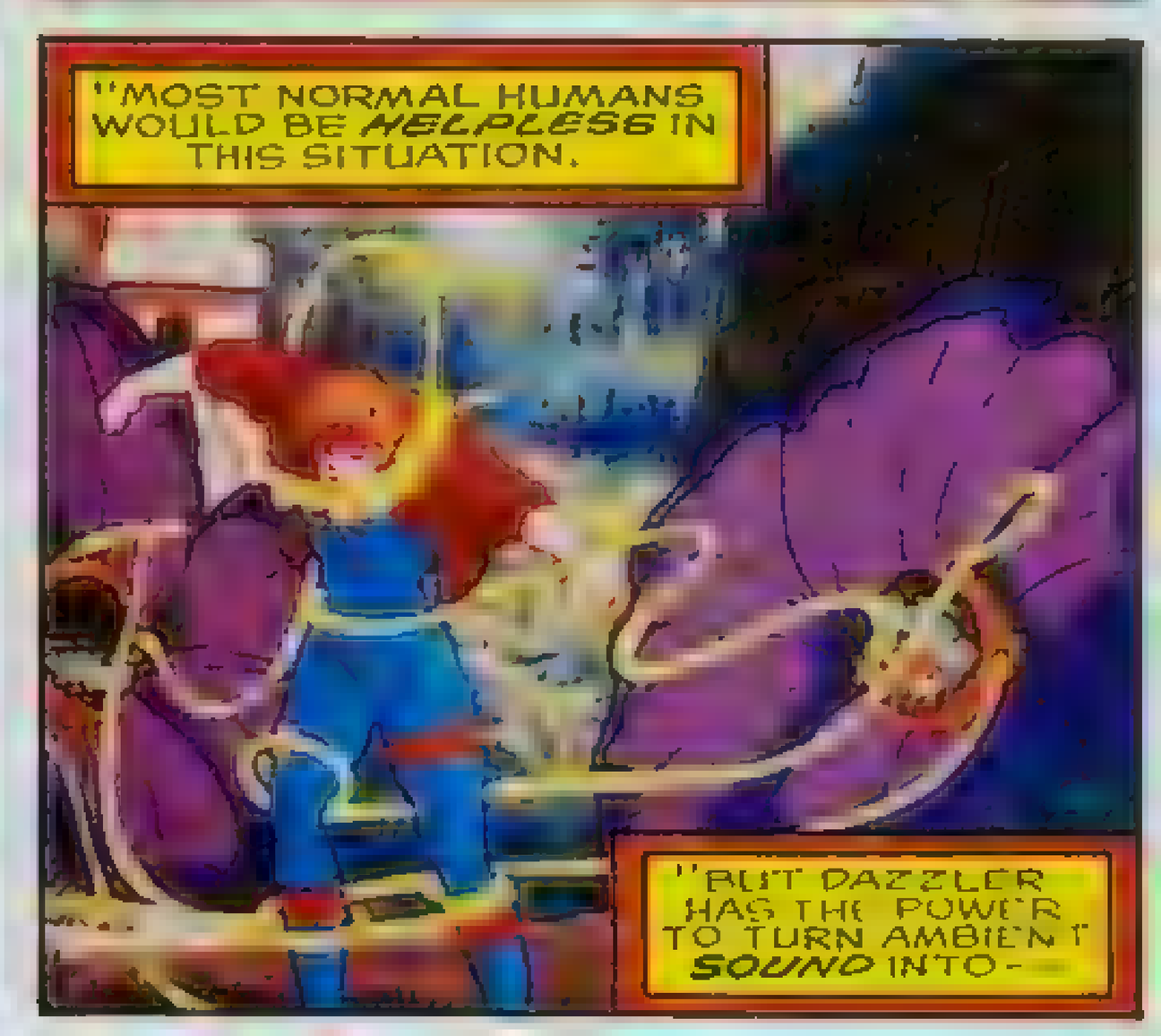

"--WHICH IS IMPERVIOUS TO HARM--
SHOOOOOM!

"--AND HAS COLOSSAL STRENGTH!

THROOOM!

"HE IS JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF HIMSELF

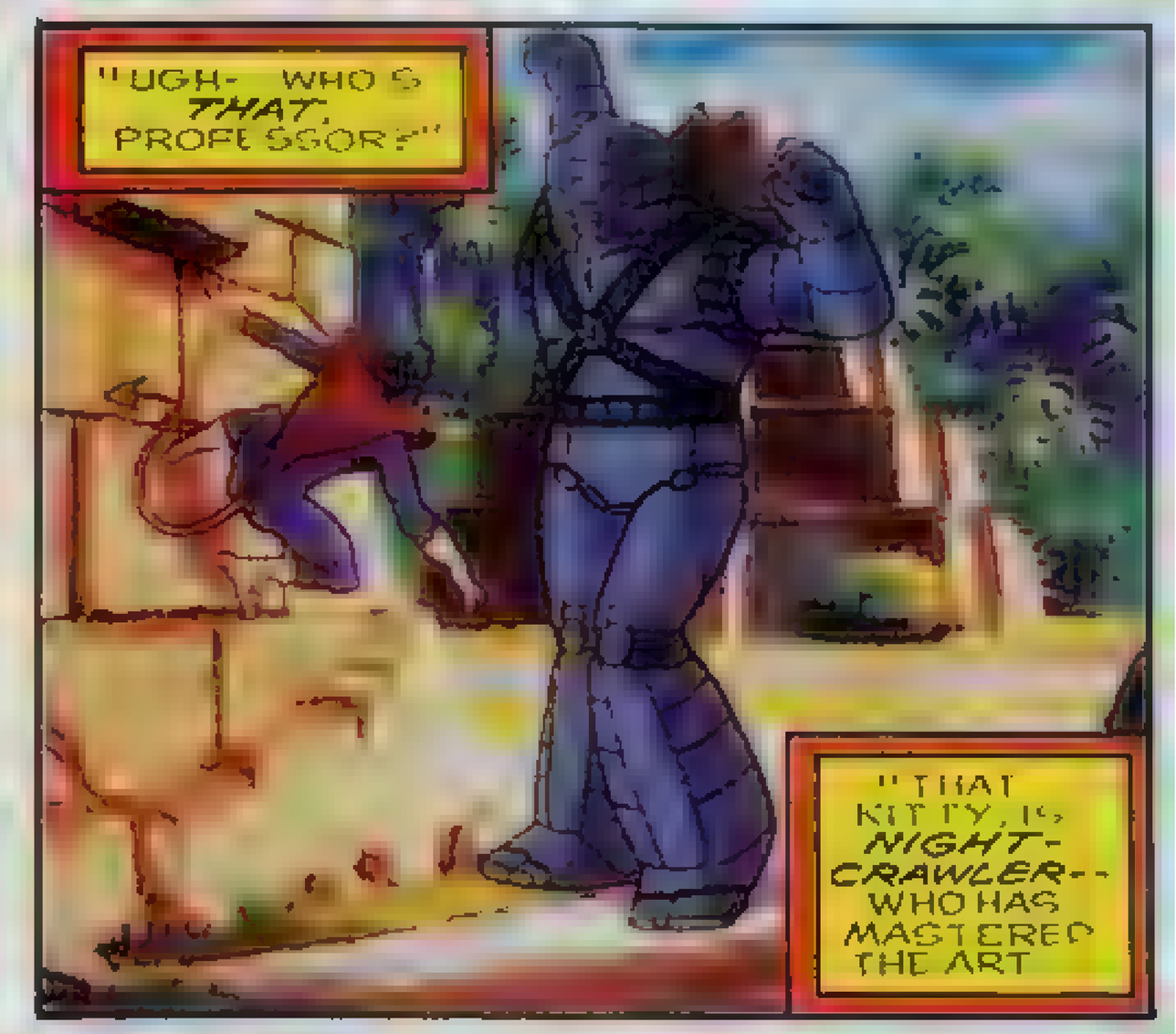

"THIS IS ALISON BLAIRE--THE DAZZLER.

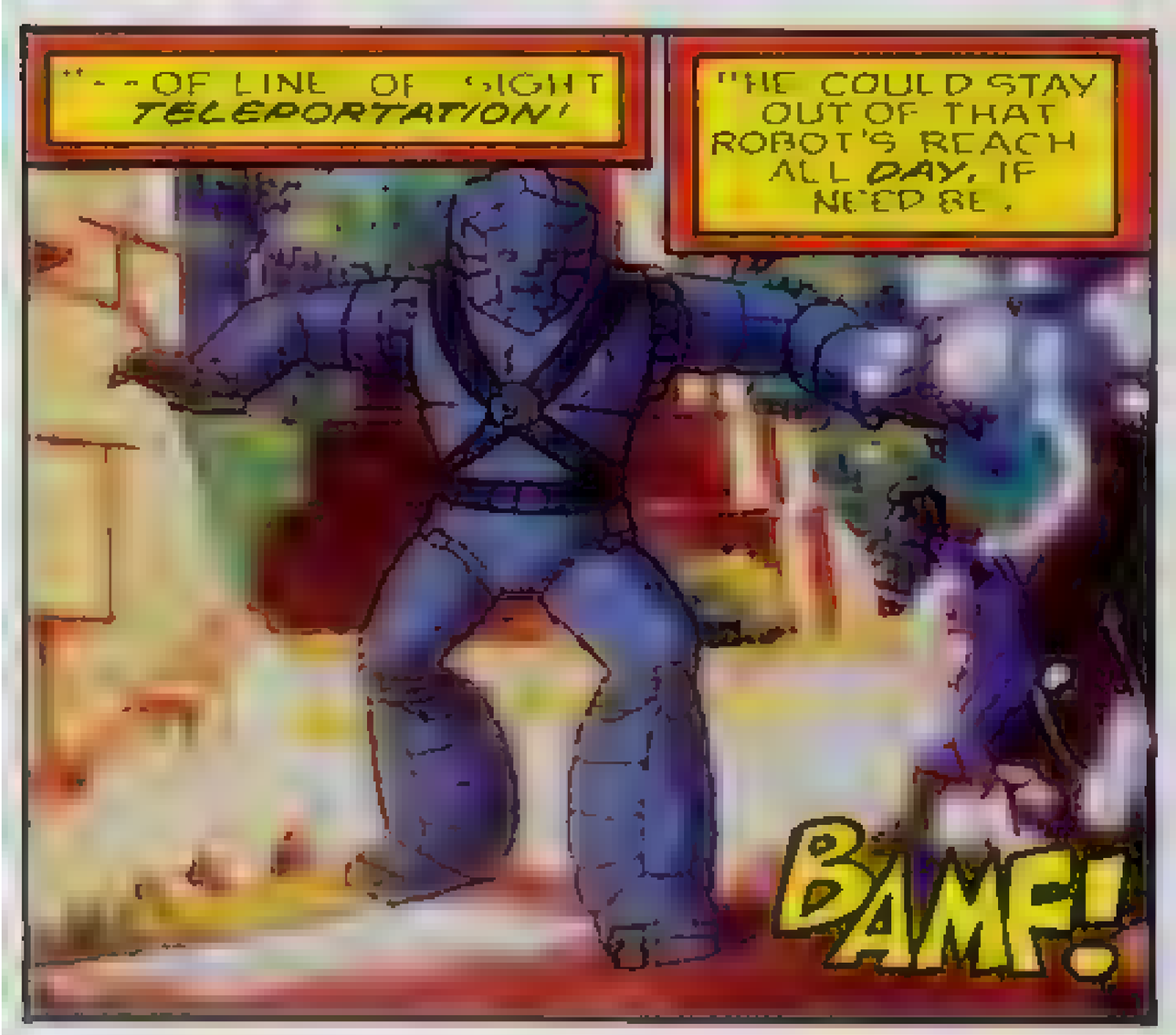

"MOST NORMAL HUMANS WOULD BE HELPLESS IN THIS SITUATION.
"BUT DAZZLER HAS THE POWER TO TURN AMBIENT SOUND INTO--

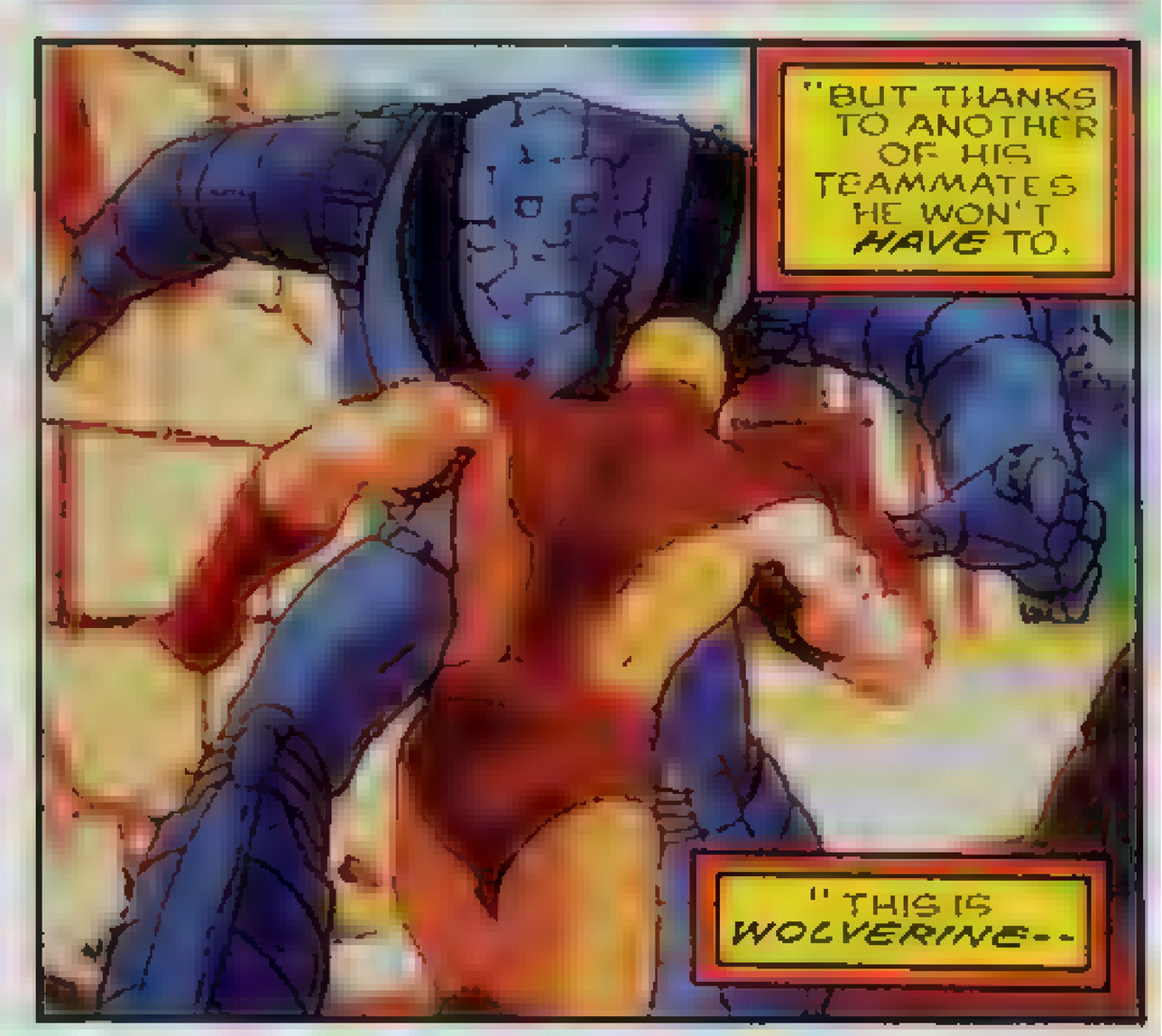
POWERFUL BOLTS OF LIGHT!
SHNAAK!

WHABOOOM!
WHABOOOM!

WHABOOOM!
"I THINK WE CAN SAFELY SAY THAT SHE ACQUITTED HERSELF RATHER WELL."


"UGH- WHO'S THAT, PROFESSOR?"
"THAT KITTY, IS NIGHT-CRAWLER-- WHO HAS MASTERED THE ART


"--OF LINE OF SIGHT TELEPORTATION!
"HE COULD STAY OUT OF THAT ROBOT'S REACH ALL DAY, IF NEED BE.
BAMF!


"BUT THANKS TO ANOTHER OF HIS TEAMMATES HE WON'T HAVE TO.
"THIS IS WOLVERINE--

"-- WHOSE RAZOR-LIKE *ADAMANTIUM CLAWS* ARE SHARP ENOUGH--

SNIKT!

SNIKT!

SHRAAKT!

"... TO SLICE THROUGH *ANYTHING*."

"PROFESSOR' THE ROBOT ..."

"WOLVERINE IS THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT HE DOES, CHILD.

"FINALLY... WE COME TO THE TEAM MEMBER KNOWN AS *STORM*.

"HER MUTANT ABILITY--

"- TO CONTROL *WEATHER ITSELF*--

"- IS *STILL* NOT COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD."

"PROFESSOR--I... I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT! SHE CLEARED UP THAT GALE AS IF IT HAD NEVER *EXISTED*--"

AS FOR ME... I HAVE THE ABILITY TO SEE INTO [illegible] *MINDS!*

NO- !

DON'T WORRY, CHILD. I *DON'T* USE MY GIFT RECKLESSLY. AND NEITHER DO ANY OF THE *OTHERS*.

SCOTT! I'VE GOT SOMEONE WITH ME I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO MEET.

EVEN AS THE PROFESSOR SPEAKS, THE RUGGED MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS REVEALS ITSELF AS..

...AN ILLUSION AND FADES- AND THE REAL MECHANICAL MARVEL THAT IS THE DANGER ROOM COMES INTO VIEW.

SURE THING, PROFESSOR.

BAMFF!

WH-WHAT- ?!

THAT'S JUST NIGHTCRAWLER "BAMFING" IN, KITTY.

AH, FRAULEIN WHAT A LOVELY VISION YOU ARE. PLEASE ALLOW ME

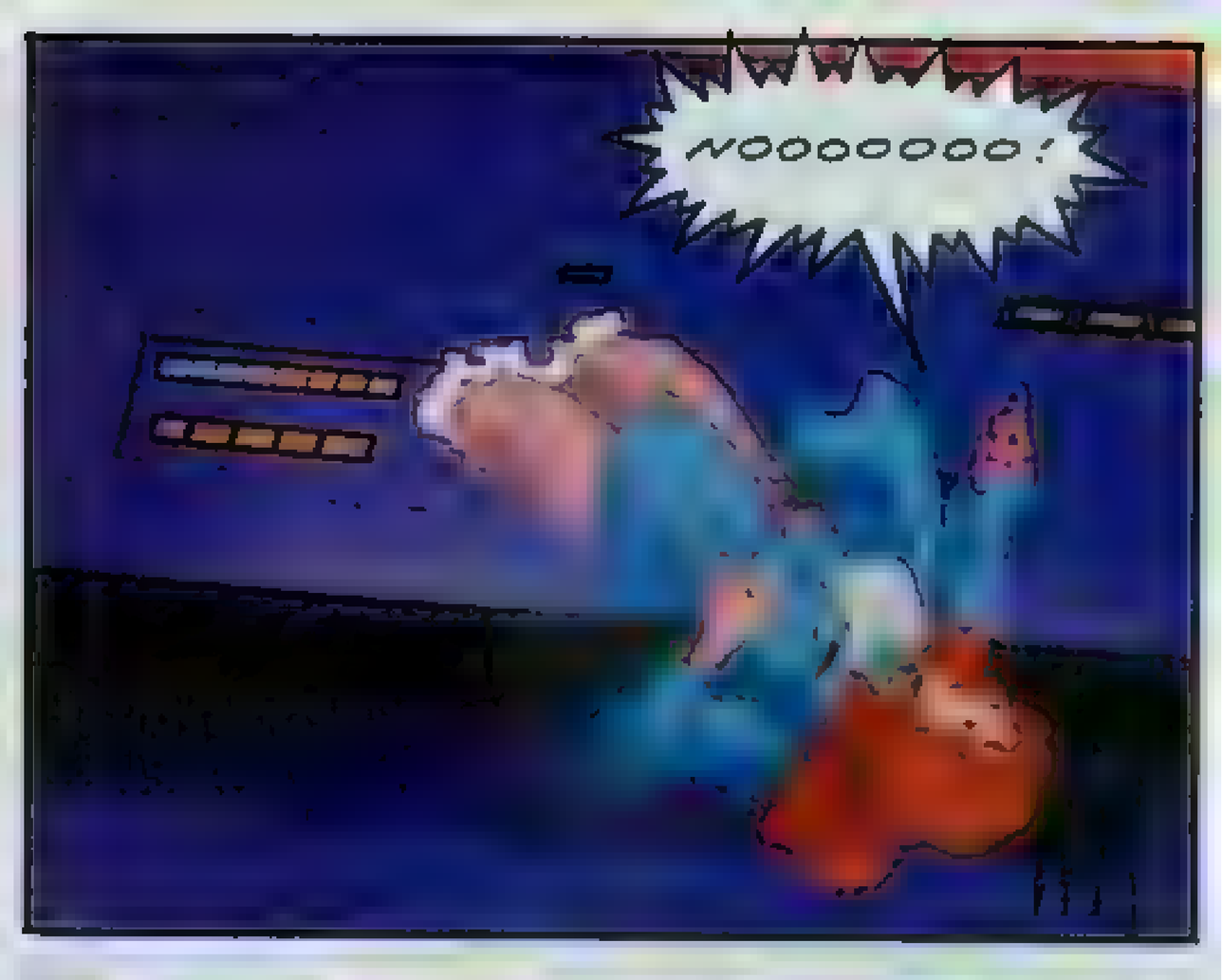
TO KISS YOUR LOVELY HAN-

NO!

STAY BACK, YOU MONSTER!

KITTY!

YOU'RE PHASING!


NOOOOOOO!

SHE'S SHORTED OUT THE DANGER ROOM CONTROL BOARD-

HELP ME
AND WHEN SHE PHASED THROUGH THE PANEL -
- SHE ACTIVATED THE LIGHTNING SEQUENCE

"STORM - WE NEED YOUR HELP!"
I'M ALREADY ON MY WAY, PROFESSOR!

I'M DAMPING DOWN THE LIGHTNING EFFECT - -
- - AND SLOWING HER DESCENT WITH A GUST OF WIND!"

AND...

I HAVE YOU, MISS.

WUMP!

THEN, WITH BUT A GESTURE...

STORM ENDS THE RAGING DOWNPOUR.

WOW!

I - - I'M SORRY. I PHASED THROUGH THE COMPUTER.

MY POWER IS PHASING. I GUESS IT DISRUPTS ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS. I DIDN'T MEAN...

NO HARM DONE, LITTLE ONE. YOU COULD NOT HELP.

STUPID KIDS-!

BAH! I'M GONNA GO SHARPEN MY CLAWS...!

FRAULEIN! YOU LEFT BEFORE I COULD PROPERLY WELCOME YOU!

TH-THAT'S OKAY! J-JUST STAY OVER TH-THERE.

WELCOME HER--?

DON'T TELL ME
SHRIKK!
SHRIKK!

SHRIKK! SHRIKK!
SHE'S NOT JOINING THE X-MEN, IS SHE?! SHE'S JUST A KID!

WOLVERINE CAN'T YOU SEE THE GIRL'S SCARED?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE WHEN YOU FIRST DISCOVERED YOU WERE A MUTANT?

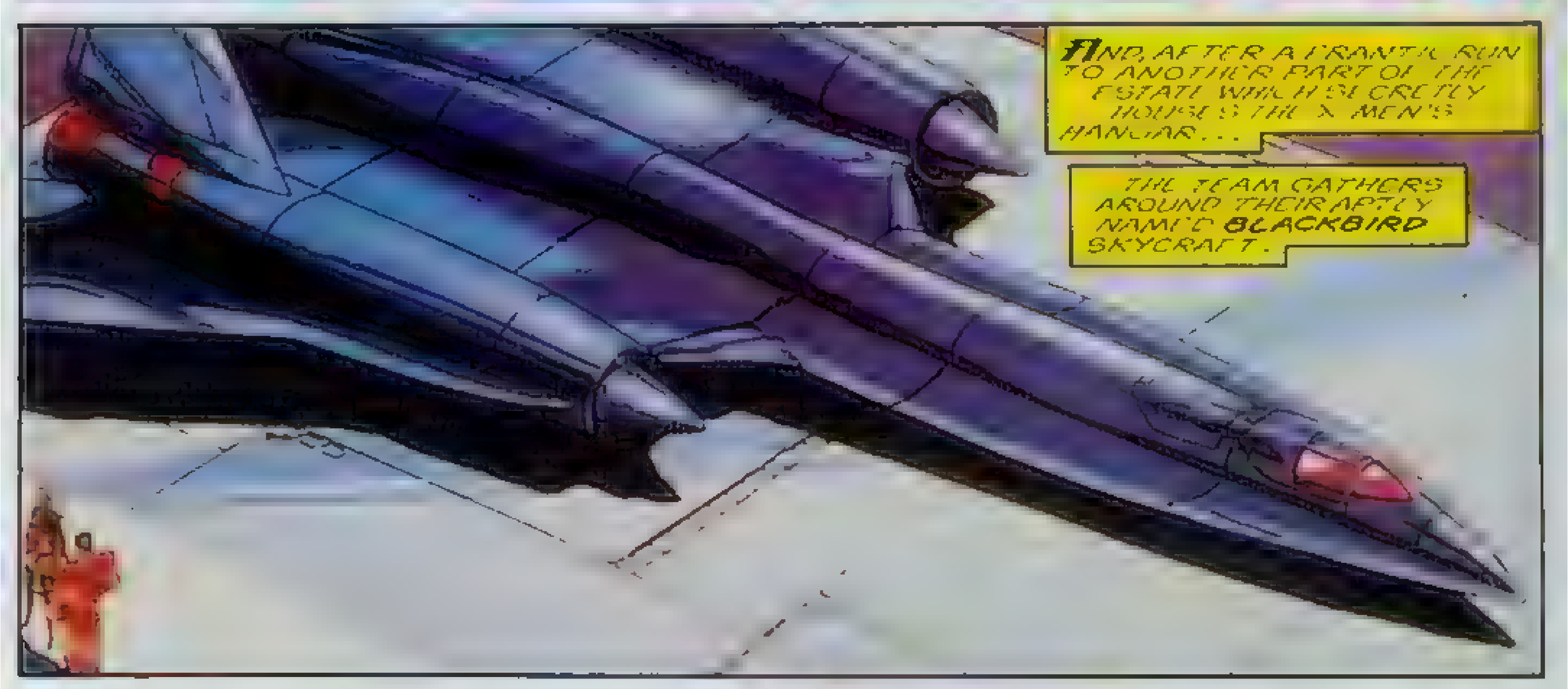
I JUST DON'T WANT TO WET-NURSE SOME LITTLE-
AROOOGA! AROOOGA! AROOOGA!

A STAGE TWO MUTANT ALERT! OUR TRAINING SESSION'S OVER!

WE'RE NEEDED!

HEY-- WHAT ABOUT ME--?

MAY AS WELL FOLLOW AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...


AND, AFTER A FRANTIC RUN TO ANOTHER PART OF THE ESTATE WHICH SECRETLY HOUSES THE X-MEN'S HANGAR...
THE TEAM GATHERS AROUND THEIR APTLY NAMED BLACKBIRD SKYCRAFT.

CEREBRO HAS DETECTED TWO OF MAGNETO'S MUTANT TERRORISTS NEAR THE DEEP SPACE OBSERVATORY.
CHECK IT OUT. WE MUST LEARN WHAT HIS PLAN IS.

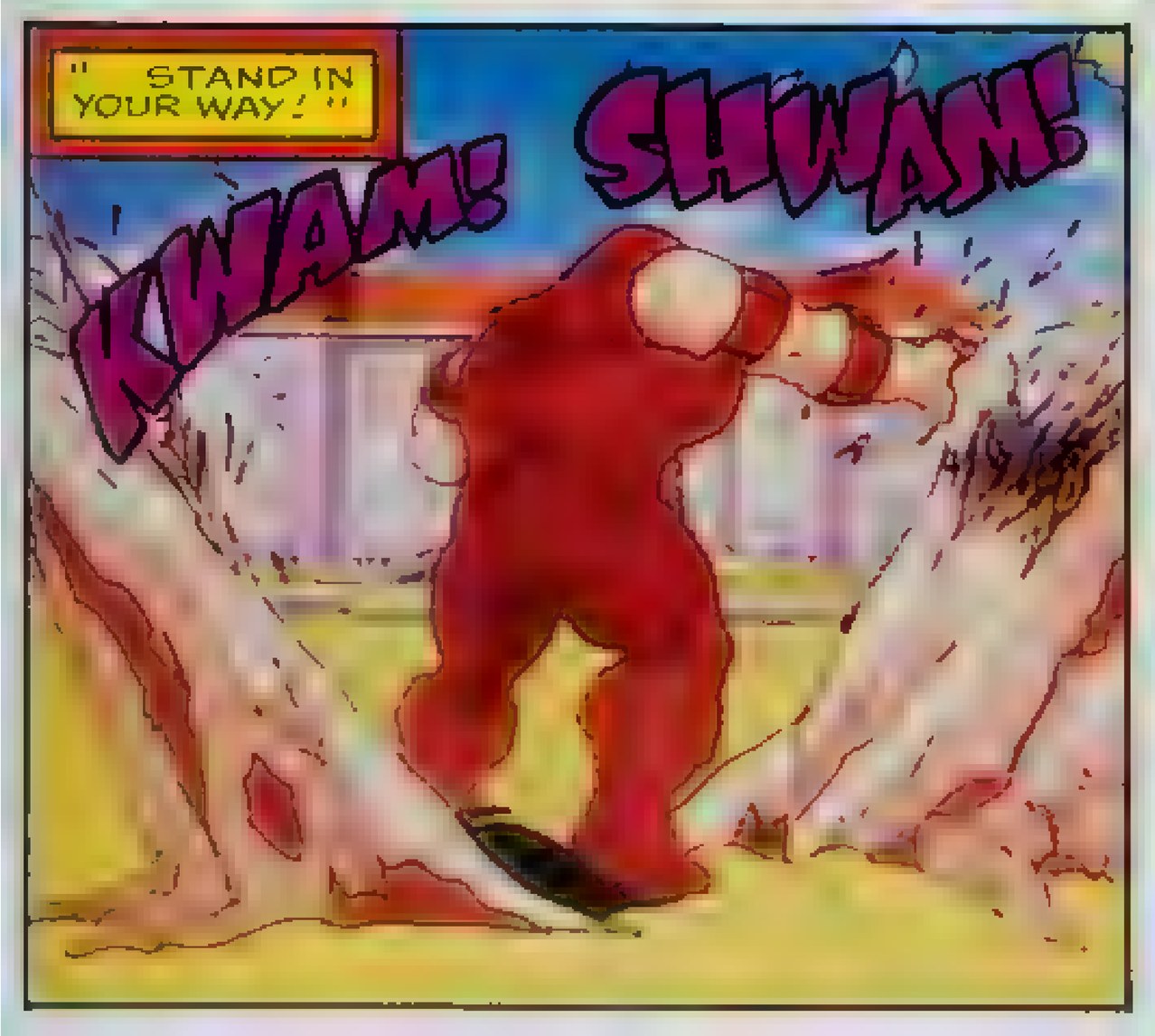
I HATE LEAVING YOU HERE ALONE, PROFESSOR, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT MAGNETO'S FREE AGAIN.
NO NEED TO WORRY, CYCLOPS.

I VE INSTALLED SEVERAL NEW DEFENSIVE PROGRAMS IN CEREBRO SINCE MAGNETO'S LAST ATTACK.

KITTY AND I WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
OKAY, PROFESSOR. WE'LL REPORT BACK!
SEE YOU TWO LATER.

AND SO, THE X MEN TAKE OFF!
THEY FELL FOR IT, JUGGERNAUT--

--AND SO YOU MAY BEGIN YOUR ASSAULT!
LET NOTHING...


" STAND IN YOUR WAY! "
KWAM!
SHWAM!

AND FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND JUGGERNAUT--
--COMES THE MOST DANGEROUS EVIL MUTANT OF ALL!

MEANWHILE, AT THE DEEP SPACE OBSERVATORY...

WHAT--WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT? WHY HAVE YOU TRAPPED US IN THIS FLAME-CAGE?
WHADDA WE WANT? NOTHIN' MUCH.

JUST MASTERY OF EARTH!
NOW, NOW, BLOB. BE NICE TO THE POOR HOMO SAPIENS. AFTER ALL...

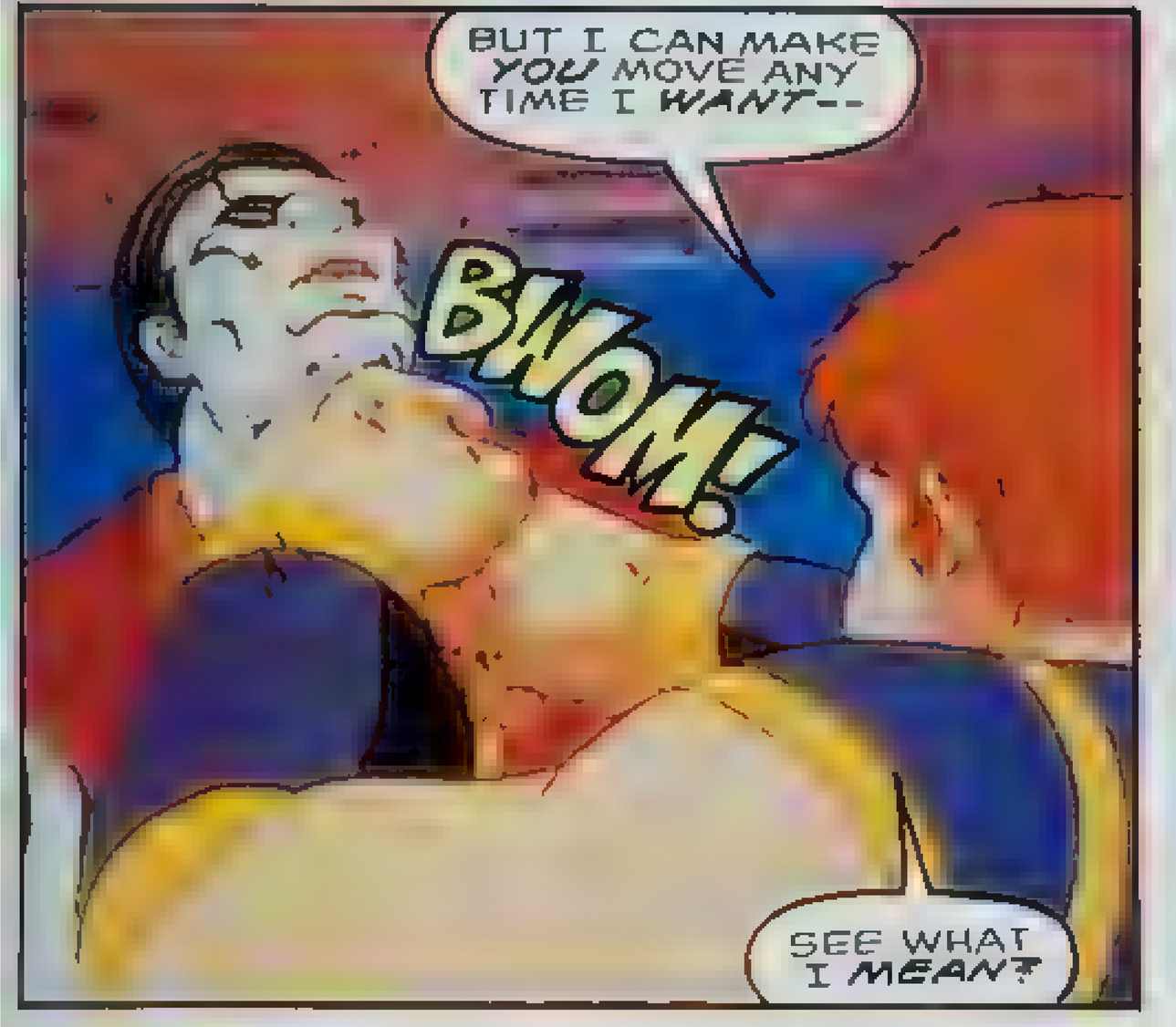
...ONCE WE GET THE COORDINATES FOR THE SCORPIO COMET...

...HIS WORLD WILL--
HIS WORLD WILL WHAT PYRO?!
AH--

--THE X-MEN! WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
EXPECTING US...?

CYCLOPS -- I WILL TRANSFORM INTO MY ARMORED FORM--

--AND TAKE CARE OF THIS--
UNH! NO MATTER HOW I STRAIN--
--I CAN'T BUDGE HIM
NO POWER ON EARTH CAN MOVE THE BLOB, FRIEND.


BUT I CAN MAKE YOU MOVE ANY TIME I WANT--
BWOM!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?

BACK OFF, X MEN -- OR I'LL USE MY CONTROL OVER FLAME TO MAKE THINGS REALLY HOT FOR THE HOSTAGES!

NO! HE'S PULLING THE FLAMES CLOSER TO US!
DADDY! I'M SCARED!
HELP US! PLEASE HELP US!

LET THE HOSTAGES GO, PYRO. THIS DOESN'T CONCERN THEM
DON'T WORRY, RUBY-EYES--I WON'T LET THE FLAMES GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HARM 'EM--LONG AS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS MIND YOUR MANNERS--!

BUT THIS DOES CONCERN THEM--AND IN TWO DAYS, IT'LL CONCERN EVERY HUMAN ON EARTH--!
SHOOSH!
THOSE WHO SURVIVE, THAT IS!

BACK OFF, X-MEN! IF THAT WALL OF FIRE SHOULD COME TOO CLOSE--!

DON'T WORRY, CYCLOPS. I CAN HANDLE THIS--!
AND FROM SOME UNKNOWN SOURCE, STORM CREATES A POCKET OF WIND TO HOLD BACK THE RAGING FLAMES.

THEY SURVIVE!
THE FLAMES THEY'RE GONE! AND SO ARE PYRO AND THE BLOB!

THEY'VE ESCAPED. AND I FEAR THEY GOT WHAT THEY CAME FOR.
WHATEVER IT WAS-- IT POSES A THREAT TO THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE--!
THE MUTANTS! ARE IN HERE! THIS WAY!

POLICE! WE'VE NO TIME TO BE DELAYED BY THEM!
X-MEN! INTO MY WHIRLWIND!

--AND LET US BE *GONE* FROM THIS PLACE!

JUST OUTSIDE THE X-MANSION, MAGNETO AND THE JUGGERNAUT CONTINUE THEIR ASSAULT.

BUT THE AUTOMATED LASER BLASTERS THAT DEFEND THE MANSION...

SKRAAM! KWAKOOM!

.. HAVE NO EFFECT ON THE UNSTOPPABLE JUGGERNAUT...

KWABOOM!

...WHILE A MAGNETIC FORCE SPHERE PREVENTS THE LETHAL BLASTS FROM *HARMING* MAGNETO.

XAVIER, YOUR PUNY WEAPONS ARE NO MATCH FOR THE BOUNDLESS MIGHT ..

GRROOM! GRROOM! GRROOM!

...OF THE *MASTER* OF *MAGNETISM*!

PROFESSOR... WHO *ARE* THESE PEOPLE.

THE ONE IN THE CAPE IS *MAGNETO*, LEADER OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS.

THE OTHER, I'M SORRY TO SAY, IS MY STEPBROTHER, *JUGGERNAUT*.

YOU *KNOW* THEM--?

YES AND IT IS THE X-MEN'S SWORN DUTY TO *FIGHT* THEM.

"FOR THE SAKE OF *MANKIND!*"

SHRAAM!

HE'S GONE THROUGH THE PERIMETER FENCE! HE IS *UNSTOPPABLE!*

PROFESSOR--I'M *SCARED!*

MAGNETO FIRES TWIN MAGNETIC **BOLTS** INTO THE OUTDOOR VIDEO CAMERA-

--BOLTS WHICH SCARE THE TERRIFIED GIRL EVEN **MORE.**

REFLEXIVELY SHE BEGINS TO **PHASE--**

KITTY! NO!

YOU'RE PHASING THROUGH CEREBRO'S DEFENSIVE CIRCUITS!

ZZZAAKKS!

OUR DEFENSE SYSTEMS--THEY'RE INOPERATIVE!

SKIZZAIKTU

SOMETHIN'S HAPPENED! THE GUNS'VE STOPPED!

FINE MAKES MY JOB THAT MUCH--

--EASIER!

SHABLAAAMMM!

PROFESSOR! THEY'LL BE IN THIS ROOM ANY MINUTE! WHAT DO WE DO?!

MAGNETO CANNOT HIDE HIS THOUGHTS FROM ME ENTIRELY. I MUST CONCENTRATE.

YES. HE WANTS CEREBRO'S MUTANT POWER CIRCUIT!

PROFESSOR X TOUCHES A CONTROL SWITCH AND

--AN OBJECT, GLOWING AND PULSING WITH ENERGY, EMERGES FROM CEREBRO.

YES, *HERE* IS WHAT HE WANTS - AND WHAT HE MUST *NEVER* GET

QUICKLY, CHILD- *TAKE* IT!

B BUT I -

SHRDAAAAKKK!

ANOTHER SECOND AND THEY'LL BE *THROUGH*, KITTY!

I'LL HOLD THEM. USE YOUR *POWER*! PROTECT THE CIRCUIT AT *ALL COSTS*!

BUT I *WON'T* JUST *LEAVE* YOU. YOU'LL BE -

KWAROOM!

WHAT, CHARLES -

-- NO *WARM WELCOME* FOR YOUR BROTHER?

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN WELCOME IN MY HOME, CAIN--

--IT'S YOUR CHOICE OF *FRIENDS* I QUESTION

JUGGERNAUT HAS CHOSEN HIS FRIENDS WELL, XAVIER.
BUT LET ME DISPENSE WITH THIS FORCE-BUBBLE...
...AND GET DOWN TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND.

GIVE ME THE MUTANT POWER CIRCUIT, CHILD.

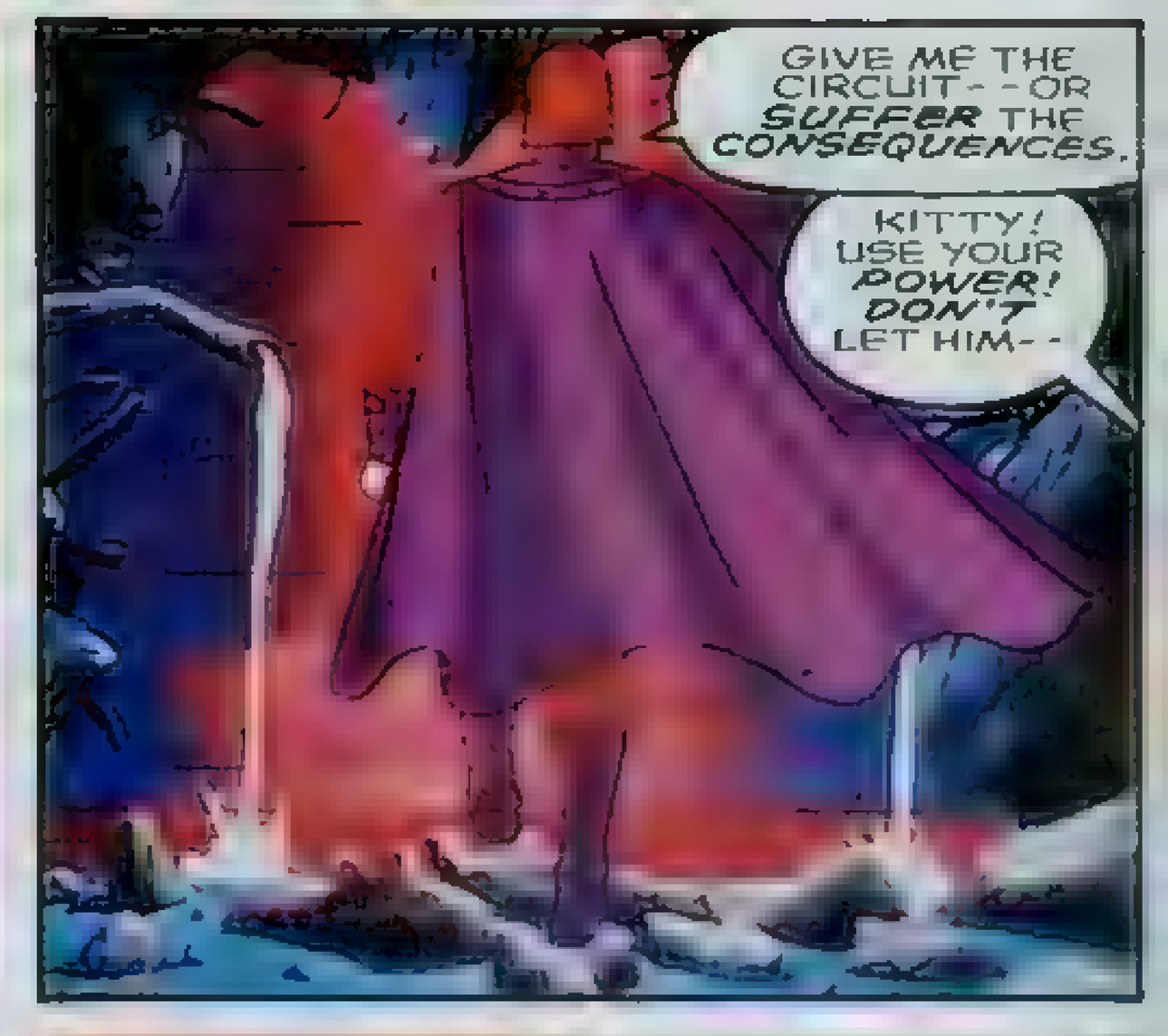
KITTY! PHASE OUT! GET AWAY FROM HERE!

STOP!

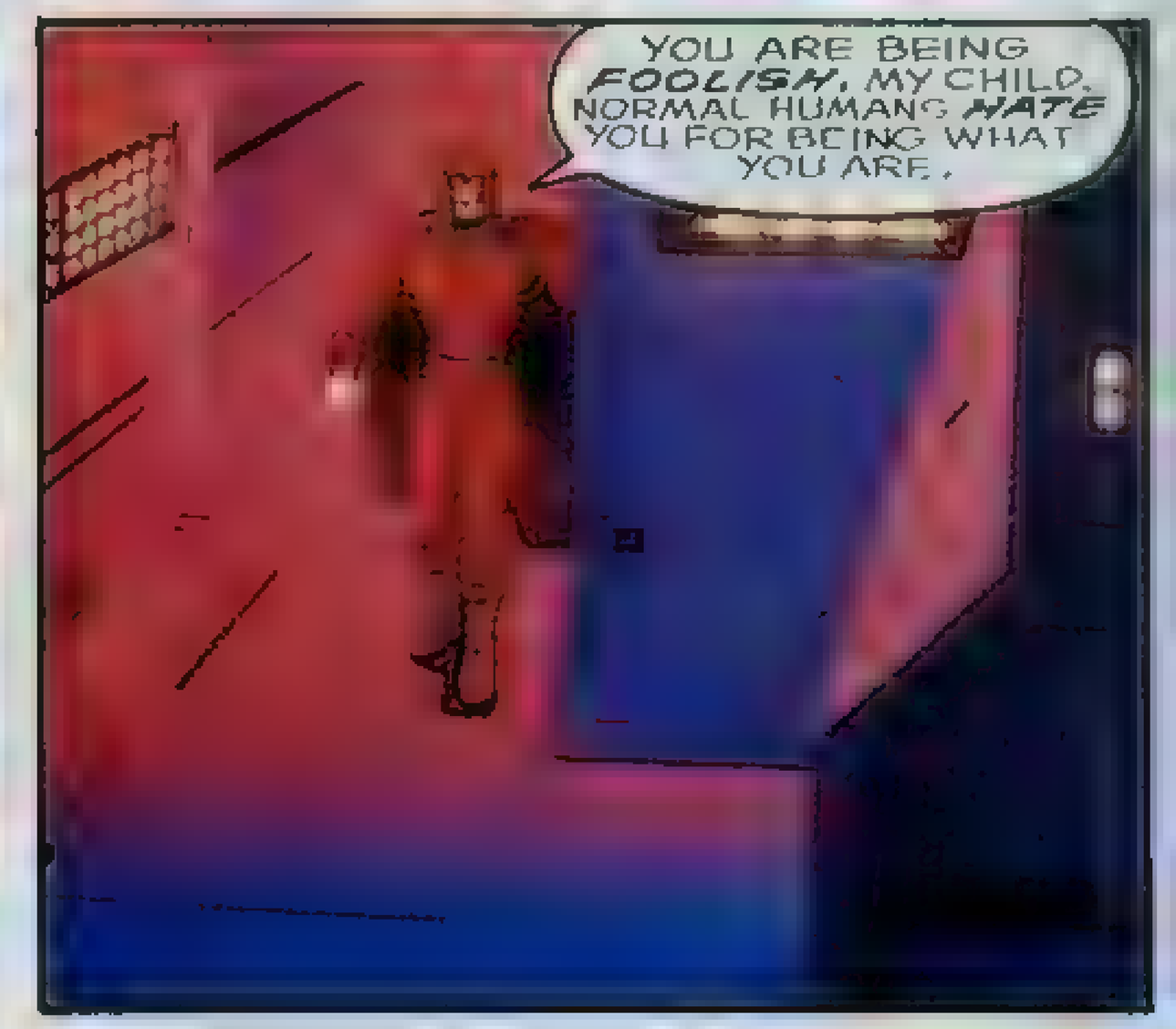
GOT TO MOVE FAST!
FOR EVERYBODY'S SAKE!

BWAKOOOM!

THE WALL--! IF I HADN'T PHASED IN TIME...'
CAN'T LET HIM GET ME!


GIVE ME THE CIRCUIT--OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
KITTY! USE YOUR POWER! DON'T LET HIM--

GET IT
FORGET ABOUT ME, BROTHER?
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU!


YOU ARE BEING FOOLISH, MY CHILD. NORMAL HUMANS HATE YOU FOR BEING WHAT YOU ARE.

WHY NOT JOIN ME? IN TWO SHORT DAYS, EARTH WILL BE MINE!
YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PLACE WITH THE NEW RULERS OF THIS PLANET!

NO! NORMAL HUMANS AND MUTANTS DON'T HAVE BE ENEMIES!
I'LL NEVER JOIN YOU! NEVER!

THAT'S TOO BAD, MY DEAR.

I M AFRAID, THEN, THAT, YOU, TOO-

--SHALL HAVE TO TASTE MAGNETO'S *WRATH!*

THE ELECTRICAL WIRING-- YOU'RE *CONTROLLING* IT!

NOOOOOOOOO!

KRAAAKKKLLE!

GOT TO - PHASE AWAY--BEFORE I BLACK OUT

BUT IN HER PANIC--

KITTY PRYDE PHASES ONLY **HERSELF** THROUGH THE FLOOR -

LEAVING THE MUTANT CIRCUIT **BEHIND.**

WITH A GESTURE OF HIS HAND, MAGNETO MAGNETICALLY DRAWS THE GLOBE...

...TO HIM!

THE WORLD... IS *MINE!*

LATER...

PROFESSOR X! KITTY!

HERE, CYCLOPS, I'VE *FOUND* HIM--

--BUT HE'S *UNCONSCIOUS*--AND COVERED BY *DEBRIS*!

A CAREFULLY DIRECTED BURST OF WIND WILL FREE HIM...!

AND SOON, WHEN THE PROFESSOR HAS REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS

KITTY--! WHERE'S KITTY?

KITTY ?
CAN YOU HEAR ME, KITTY ?
WHA ?
HUH ?

WHO IS I
NO! KEEP AWAY!

IT'S OKAY KITTY. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
WHAT OH, DAZZLER ?
THEN THEN IT'S ALL

.. BEEN REAL...
OF COURSE IT'S ALL BEEN REAL. GET WITH IT, KID -

THE X-MEN DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR WHINY BRATS.

JUST WHO ARE YOU CALLING WHINY?! I'LL SHOW YOU! I'LL -
HOLD IT, KITTY. WOLVERINE MAY BE A BIT OF A JERK AT TIMES .. BUT HE'S NOT YOUR ENEMY.

THAT'S RIGHT. MAGNETO'S THE ENEMY.
WAIT--! WHAT ABOUT PROFESSOR X?! IS HE ALL RIGHT?! I-
YES, KITTY. I'M FINE.

OH, PROFESSOR--

I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU'RE NOT HURT!
BUT.. I FAILED, PROFESSOR...

MAGNETO HAS THE CIRCUIT.
YOU DIDN'T FAIL, MY CHILD.

YOU BOUGHT US TIME.
NONE OF US WOULD HAVE HAD A CHANCE ALONE AGAINST MAGNETO.

WE MUST DISCOVER WHAT MAGNETO IS UP TO- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

IF I CAN ONLY MAKE MENTAL CONTACT WITH HIM...

YES... YES... ...I'M GETTING A FIX ON HIM...

SPACE. A HALF MILE WIDE ASTEROID ORBITS THE EARTH

CLOSER INSPECTION, HOWEVER, REVEALS IT TO BE MUCH MORE THAN JUST A FLOATING HUNK OF STONE...

...FOR INSIDE THIS ASTEROID...

IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!

HAS THE COMPUTER TRACKING-SYSTEM LOCKED ONTO THE SCORPIO COMET, TOAD?

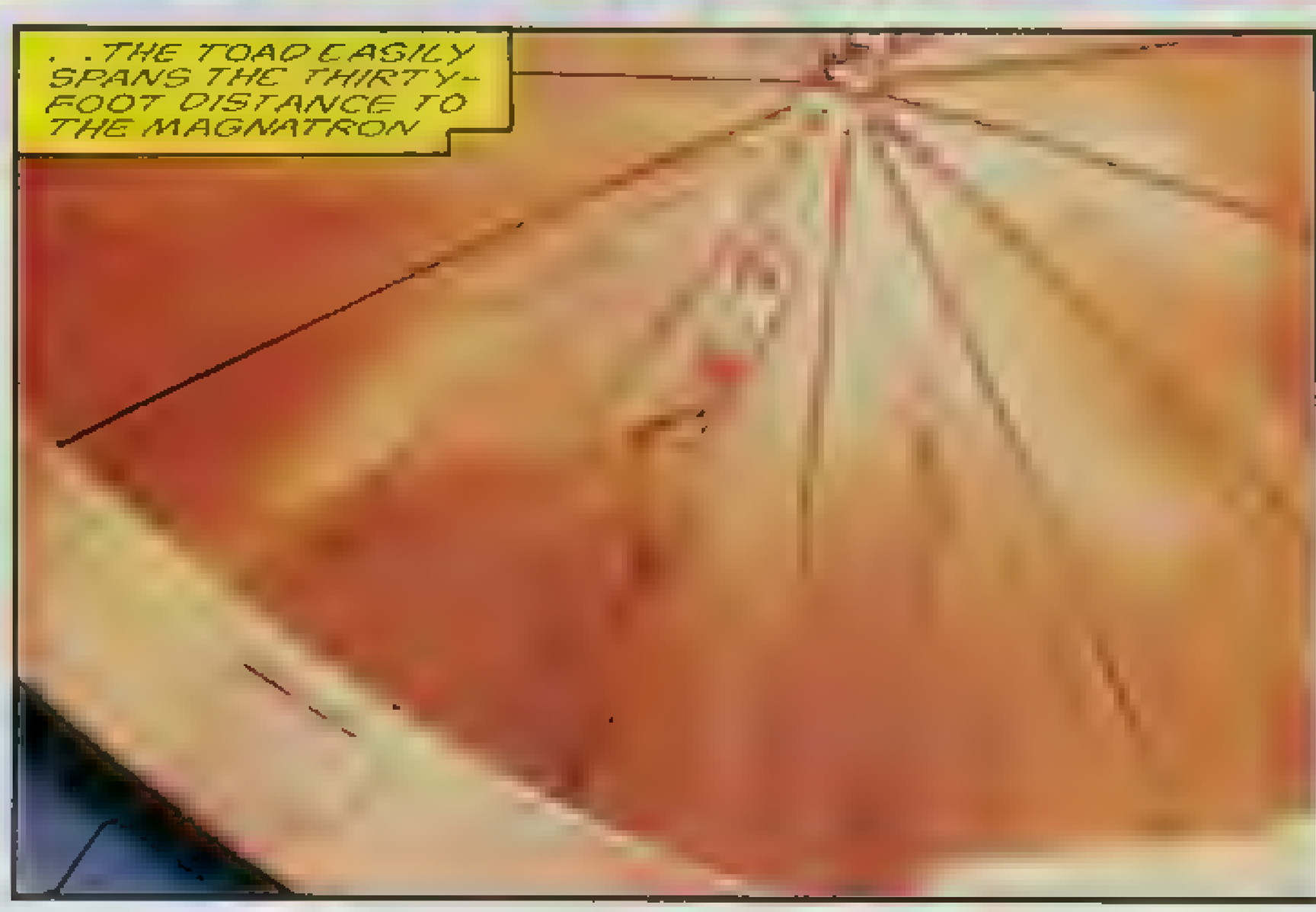
YES, MASTER EVERYTHING IS READY, JUST AS YOU DEMANDED.

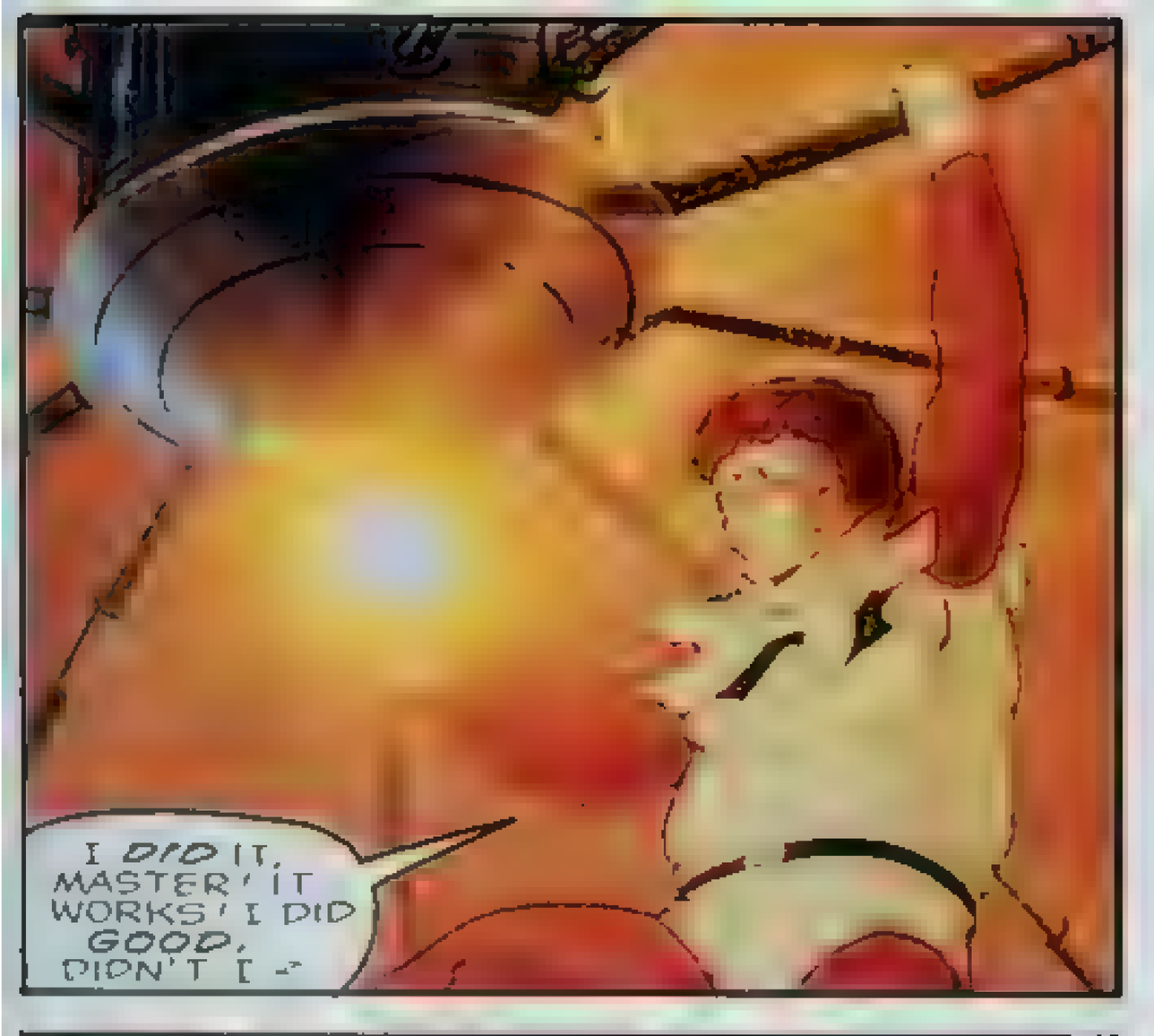
EXCELLENT.
TOAD, PLACE THIS POWER CIRCUIT IN THE MAGNATRON ABOVE US-

GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, PESTY BEAST!

SCORPIO IS NOW IN RANGE. TAKE THIS CIRCUIT AND DO AS I HAVE INSTRUCTED YOU.
YES, MAGNETO!

IMMEDIATELY!
USING HIS MUTANT LEAPING ABILITY


...THE TOAD EASILY SPANS THE THIRTY-FOOT DISTANCE TO THE MAGNATRON


I DID IT, MASTER! IT WORKS! I DID GOOD, DIDN'T I -

YES, TOAD, YOU DID. NOW MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL - GO PLAY IN THE AIRLOCK.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO DO IN THE AIR

GO!
A-ALL RIGHT...

GET OUT OF MY WAY, PEST!
SHOO!

THE CIRCUIT IS COMPLETE.

YES! I CAN FEEL THE ENERGY...
THE POWER ..

THE POWER!!

ON THE ASTEROID'S SURFACE, A NUCLEUS OF WHITE LIGHT FORMS IN THE CENTER OF A HUGE PARABOLIC MIRROR...

...AND SUDDENLY SHOOTS OUT IN A BLINDING, RADIANT BURST.

THE ENERGY-SATURATED LIGHT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY REACHES ITS TARGET...
SCORPIO.
AND AS THE LIGHT TOUCHES THE COMET, IT BEGINS TO ALTER THE CELESTIAL BODY'S COURSE..

...UNTIL SCORPIO IS HEADED DIRECTLY TOWARD EARTH.
I'VE DONE IT--!

IN LESS THAN A DAY, MOST OF THE HUMAN RACE WILL BE WIPED OUT.
THE HOUR OF HOMO SUPERIOR IS NEARLY UPON US!

AND IN THE X-MANSION..

I--I'VE LOCATED MAGNETO--DISCERNED HIS PLAN--BUT--THE POWER--

THE POWER--AARGH!

NOOOO!

PROFESSOR!

PROFESSOR! WHAT'S HAPPENED!

PROFESSOR?

WHAT DID YOU SEE, SIR?

M-MAGNETO! HE'S CHANGED THE COURSE OF THE COMET SCORPIO! IT'S NOW HEADED DIRECTLY AT THE EARTH!

HIS POWER--INCREASED BY THE MUTANT CIRCUIT--IT HIT ME LIKE A FIST!

THERE YOU GO, PROFESSOR.

IF SCORPIO HITS EARTH, IT'LL SEND UP A CLOUD OF DUST AND DEBRIS THAT WILL BLOCK OUT THE SUN FOR YEARS!

EARTH WILL BE PLUNGED INTO AN ICE AGE!

WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT!

BUT HOW?

I DETECTED THE LOCATION OF MAGNETO'S BASE. IT'S ON AN ASTEROID IN SPACE.

THEN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE HEADED! COME ON!

FINE BUT THE KID STAYS *HERE*. SHE'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY

I WILL *NOT*! AND STOP CALLING ME A *KID*! I'M *FOURTEEN* YEARS OLD!

I'M SORRY, KITTY--

BUT WOLVERINE'S *RIGHT*. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TRAINED. IT'S MUCH TOO *DANGEROUS*.

UNTIL LATER, MY CHILD

BUT SOMEWHERE LATER..

THIS ISN'T THE *END* OF IT X-MEN. *I'LL* SHOW YOU.

I'LL SHOW YOU *ALL*!

PRECIOUS HOURS LATER, THE BLACKBIRD APPROACHES THE ASTEROID DIRECTED BY XAVIER

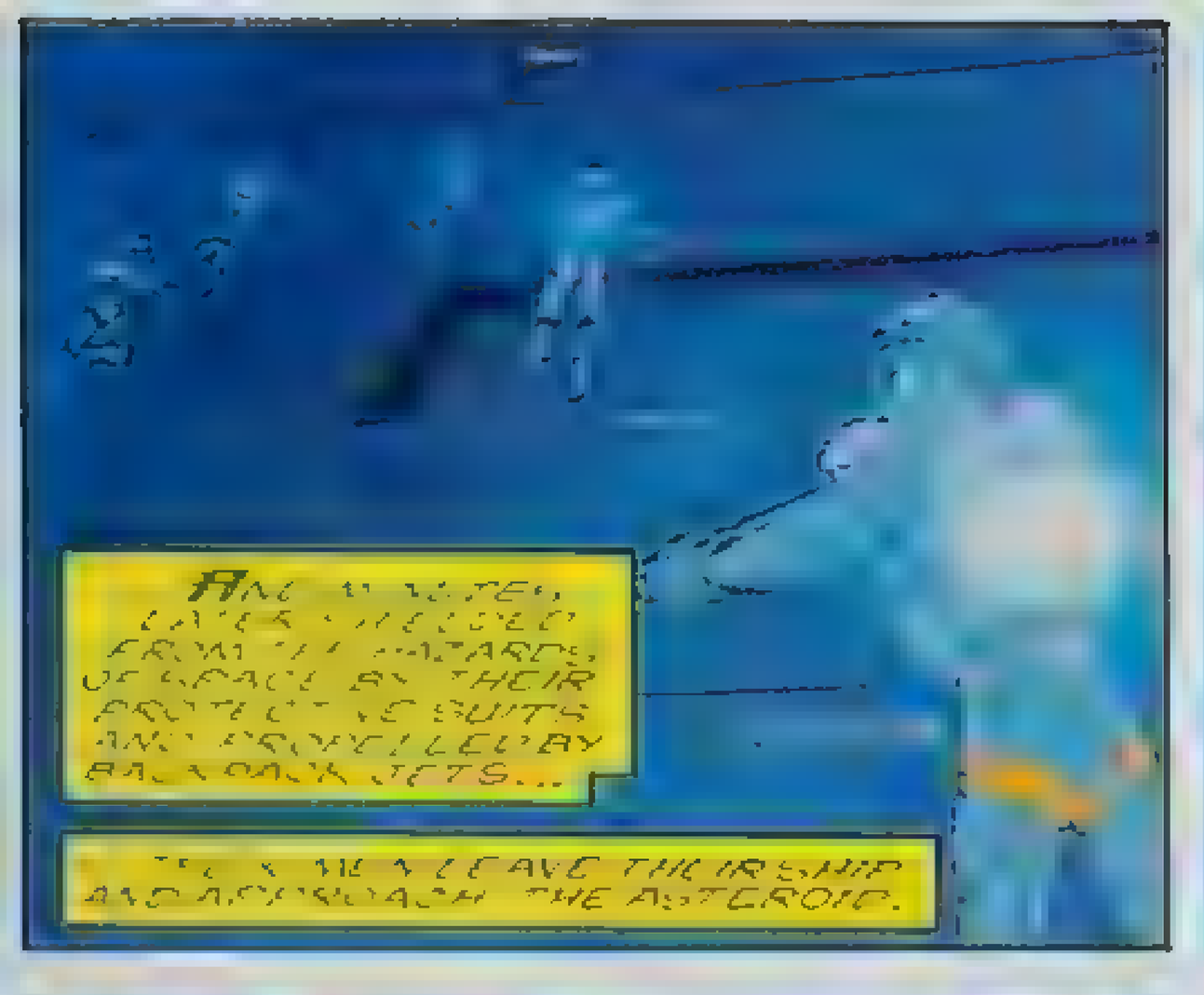
ONE MINUTE UNTIL *RENDEZVOUS* WITH THE ASTEROID, PROFESSOR.

EXCELLENT. PREPARE TO ASSUME PARKING ORBIT, CYCLOPS.

DONE

THEN LET'S GET *GOIN'*, CYKE. MY CLAWS'RE *ITCHIN'* FOR SOME ACTION.

DON'T WORRY, WOLVERINE. I'VE A FEELING THERE'LL BE ENOUGH EVEN FOR *YOU*!


AND IN WATER-LAYER SUITS PROTECTED FROM THE HAZARDS OF SPACE BY THEIR PROTECTIVE SUITS AND PROPELLED BY BACKPACK JETS...
THE X-MEN LEAVE THEIR SHIP AND APPROACH THE ASTEROID.

EVERYBODY GET READY-
--IT'S SHOW TIME!

SHROOOOM!

BLAAAANGABLAAAANGA
ALERT
WE'VE BEEN BOARDED!
OUT OF MY WAY!
GOT TO SWITCH FROM THE COMET--

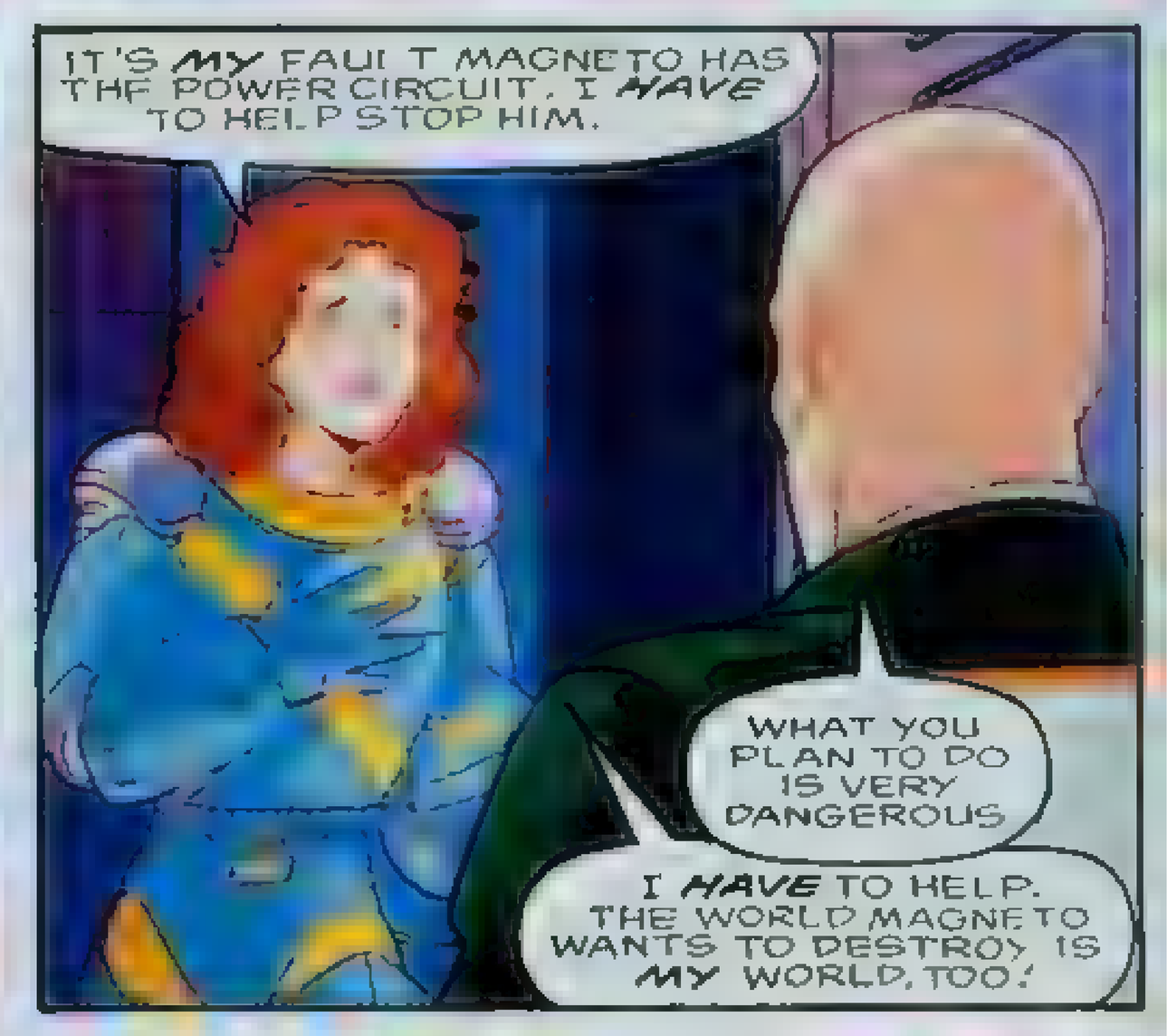
TO-
NO!
THE X-MEN!

MOST INGENIOUS. XAVIER HAS TRAINED HIS STUDENTS WELL. STORM IS USING HER WEATHER POWERS TO CONTAIN THE ESCAPING ATMOSPHERE WHILE HER TEAMMATES ENTER THE ASTEROID.
A PITY THEIR INGENUITY WILL DO THEM NO GOOD. THEY WILL NOT LEAVE HERE ALIVE.
STOP THEM! THEY MUST NOT REACH THIS CHAMBER!

WE'RE ON OUR WAY, BOSS.
THE X-MEN WILL DIE!

MEANWHILE, BACK ON THE BLACKBIRD...
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW, KITTY.

HOW DID YOU KNOW?
YOU FORGOT - I READ MINDS
WHY DIDN'T YOU STAY AT THE MANSION AS YOU WERE TOLD?
I - I COULDN'T!


IT'S MY FAULT MAGNETO HAS THE POWER CIRCUIT. I HAVE TO HELP STOP HIM.
WHAT YOU PLAN TO DO IS VERY DANGEROUS
I HAVE TO HELP. THE WORLD MAGNETO WANTS TO DESTROY IS MY WORLD, TOO!

WISH ME LUCK, PROFESSOR.

GOOD LUCK, MY DEAR.
GOOD LUCK TO US ALL.

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE ASTEROID...

I HOPE YOUR TRACKING ABILITIES ARE LEADING US THE *RIGHT* WAY, WOLVERINE.

WORRY ABOUT *YOURSELF*, MISTER WE'RE HOT ON THEIR--

LOOK OUT!

DID SOMEONE SAY "HOT"?

WHOOOSH!

PYRO!

NONE OTHER! I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR A LITTLE *BARBY*!

LEAVE THIS ONE TO *ME*!

AARGH!

NO! KEEP *AWAY* WITH THOSE BLASTED *LIGHTS*! I'M *WARNIN'* YA!

I'LL KEEP OUR LITTLE FIREBUG BUSY! YOU GUYS GO *ON*!

BUT AS DAZZLER'S TEAMMATES CONTINUE ON. .

WE'RE AT A FORK IN THE TUNNELS. WHICH WAY *NOW*, WOLVERINE?

OFF HAND, I'D SAY - -

OFF HAND, *I'D* SAY

- - I'VE *GOT* YOU, KIDDIES!

UNH!

AGH!

WHAT THE FLAMIN' - - ?

HAH! I BEAT THE BIG, BAD *WOLVERINE* IN NO TIME AT *ALL!*

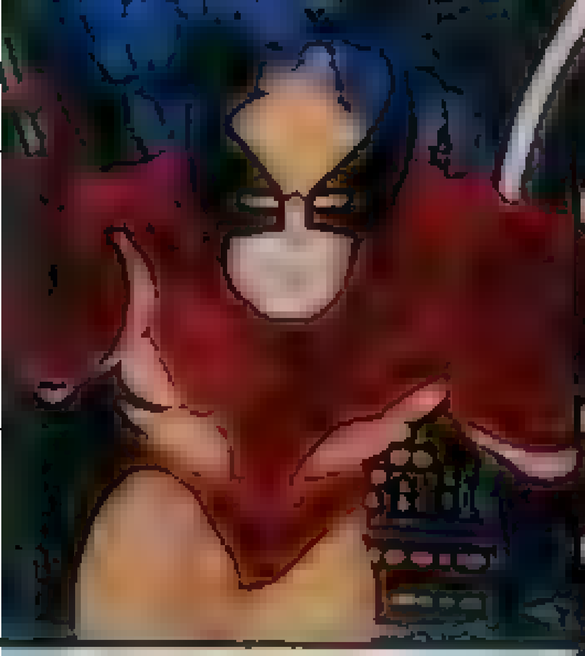
FLIPPIN' MI - -

WHOOSH!

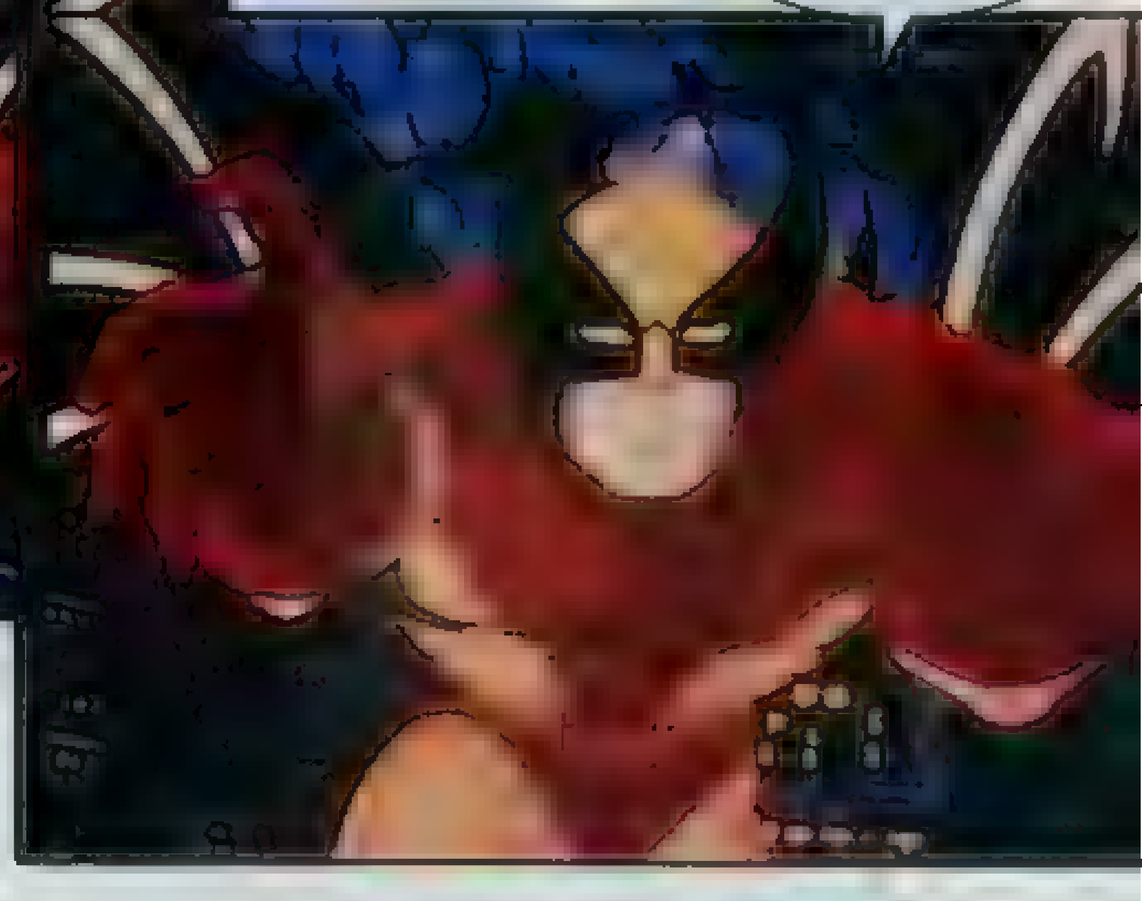
- - AND *BEATIN'* ME -

SNIKT!

SNIKT!



--ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS, TOADIE!


HERE COMES THE SECOND--

--AND FINAL--
--ROUND --!

HAH-HAH! THE TOAD IS TOO FAST FOR YOU!

BUSTER-

SHRAAKT!

WHUMP!
AARGH!
--YOU TALK A LOT TOO MUCH!

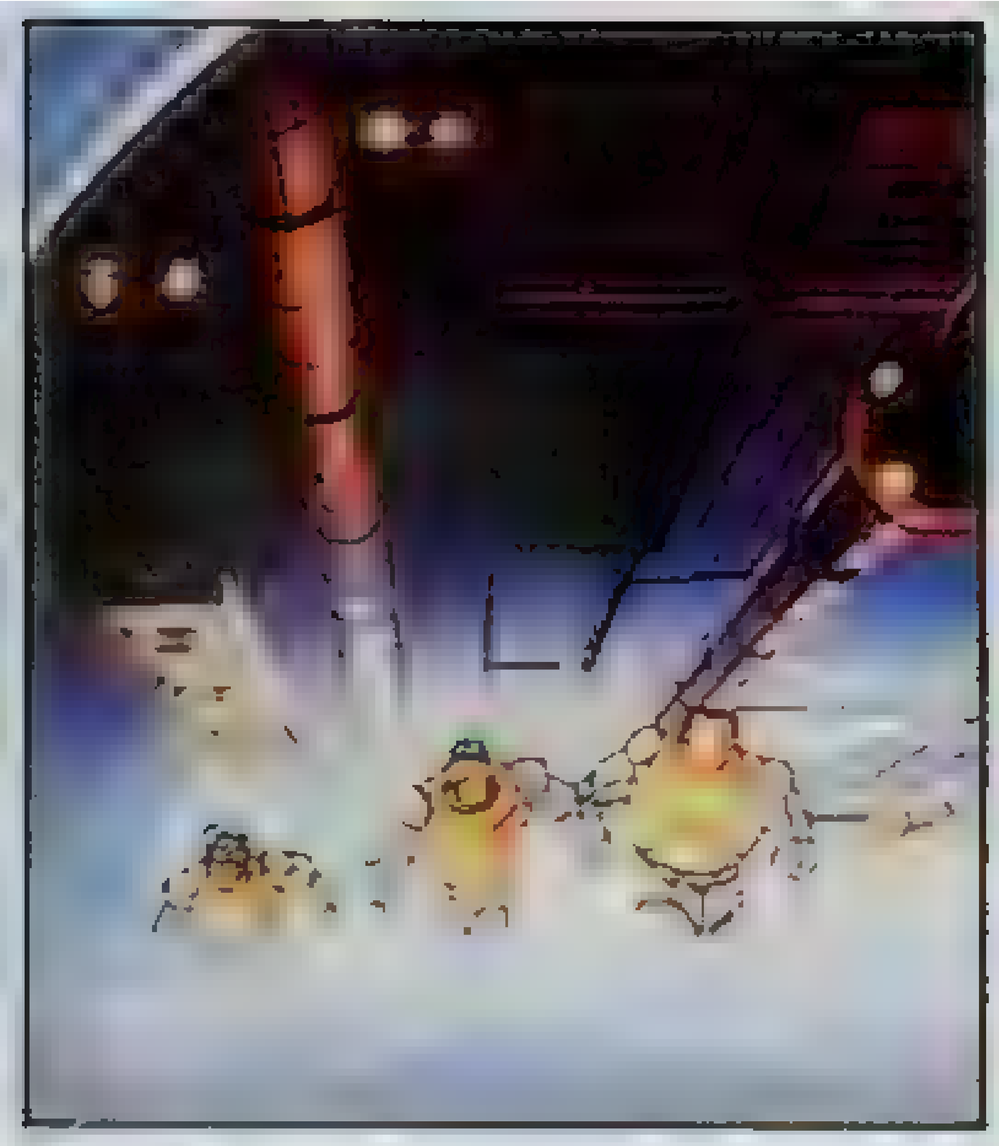
I'M WAITIN' FOR YA, TOADIE!
NO! NO! GOT TO TWIST-DIRECT MYSTI!!

--BOUNCE OFF THE WALL-

--AND ESCAPE!
YOU'RE SOME TACTICIAN, FROGGIE! THAT TUNNEL'S A DEAD END-

AND NOW IT AIN'T GOT ANY OPENING ON THIS SIDE, EITHER!
SHRAAK!

YOU CAUSED A LANDSLIDE
YEAH, I'LL STAY HERE TO MAKE SURE TOAD'S REALLY OUT OF COMMISSION. YOU GUYS GO ON.
MAGNETO SHOULD BE AT THE END OF THIS PASSAGEWAY.

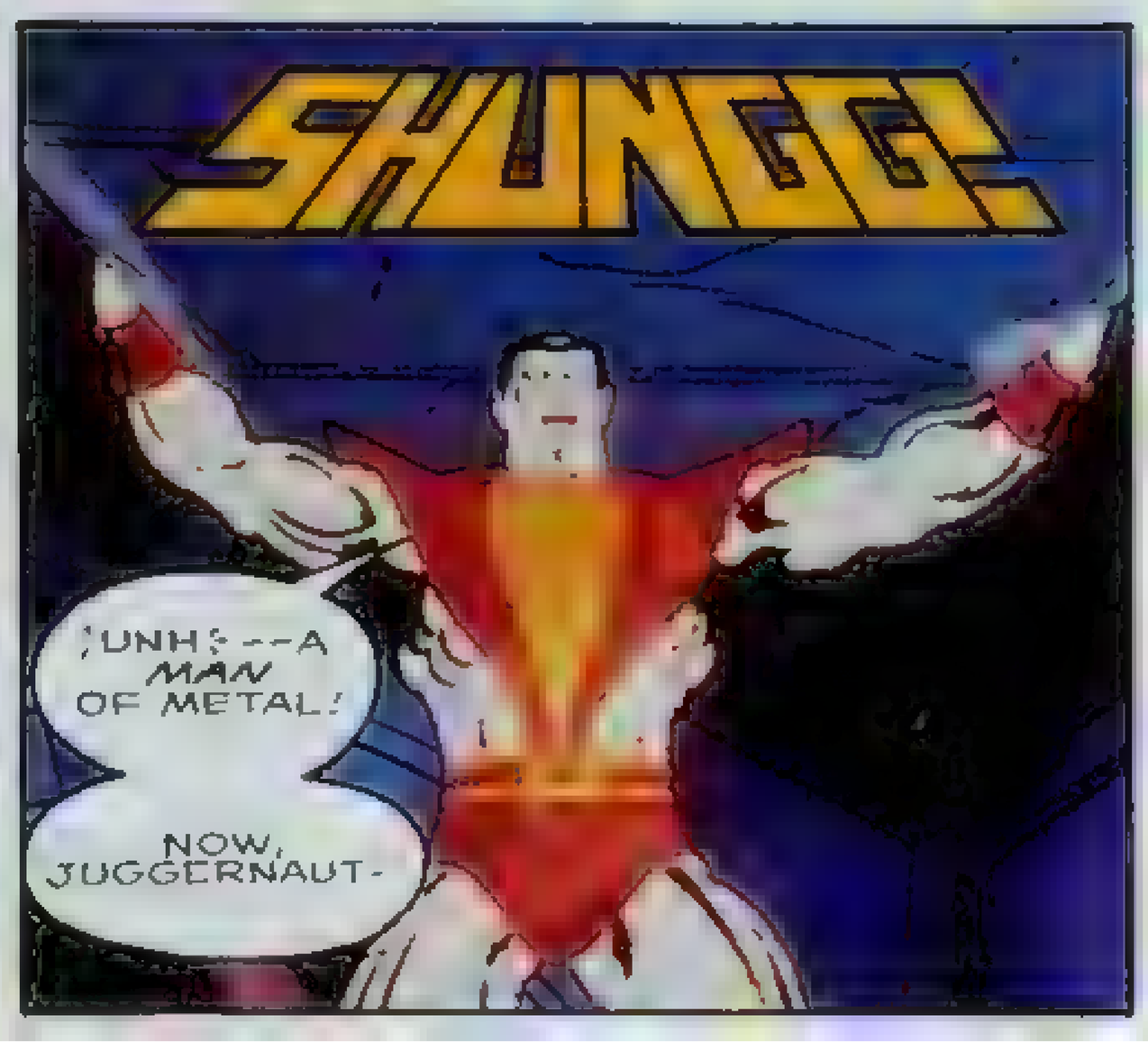


UH OH-

SO YOU'VE MANAGED TO GET PAST OUR LITTLE WELCOMING COMMITTEE.
BUT YOU GO NO FURTHER.

SEE HOW YOU STAND UP TO THIS PIECE OF HEAVY METAL!
WHRUUUNCH!
BACK OFF, GENTLEMEN -

A METAL WEAPON IS BEST COMBATED BY- -


SKUNGGL
¡UNH! --A MAN OF METAL!
NOW, JUGGERNAUT-

RUUUNNCCHH!

-LET US GET *CLOSER* TO EACH OTHER!

LIKE I SAID- YOU'RE GOING *NO FURTHER!*

AND WHO IS GOING TO *STOP* US?

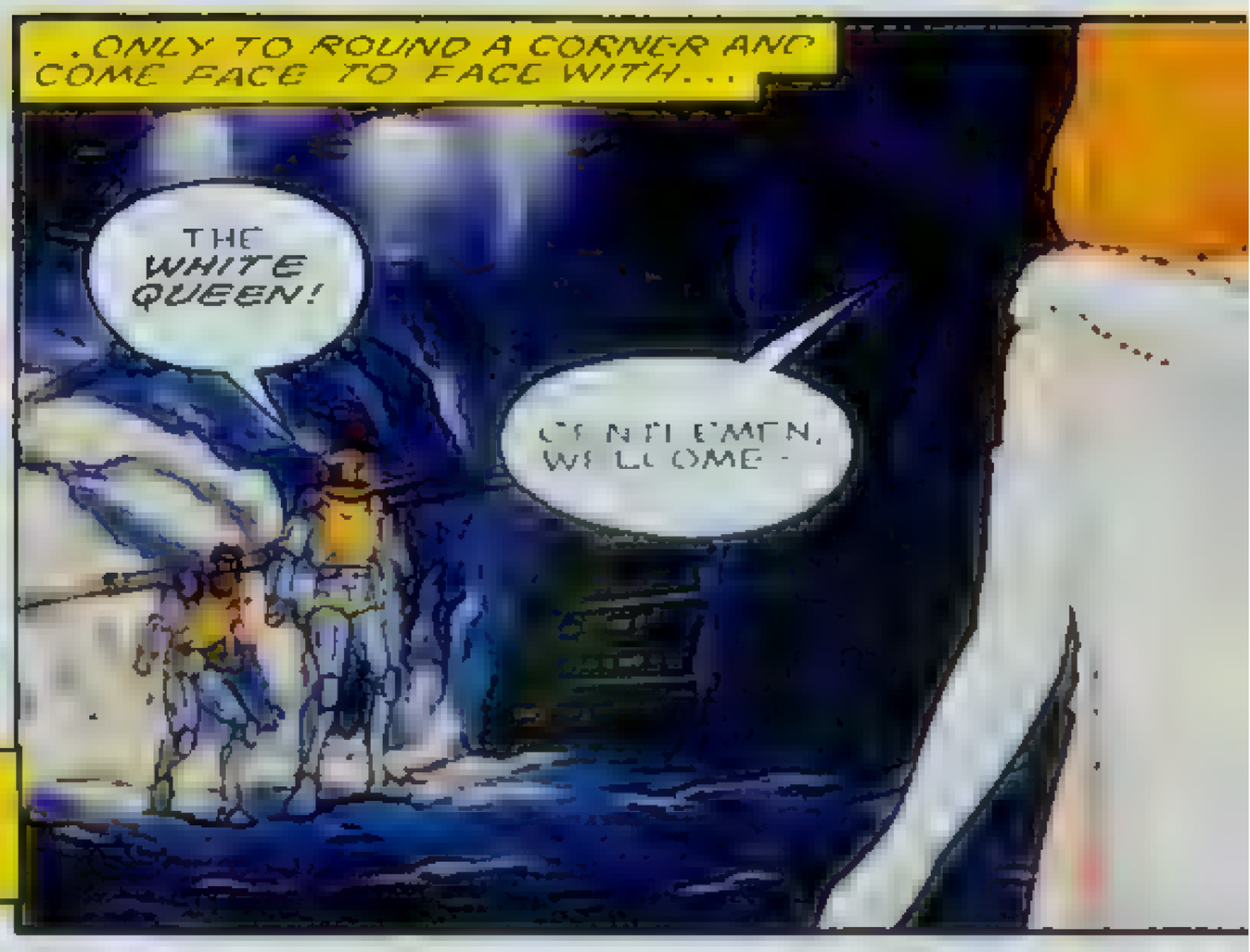
ME... *JUGGERNAUT!*

BAH!

LET US BE *RID* OF THIS PIECE OF *JUNK*-- AND FIND OUT WHO IS *CORRECT!*

FINE WITH *ME!*

WHAM! BLOCK!
AND WHILE COLOSSUS DISTRACTS HIS FOE, CYCLOPS AND NIGHTCRAWLER CONTINUE ON...


...ONLY TO ROUND A CORNER AND COME FACE TO FACE WITH...
THE WHITE QUEEN!
GENTLEMEN, WELCOME -

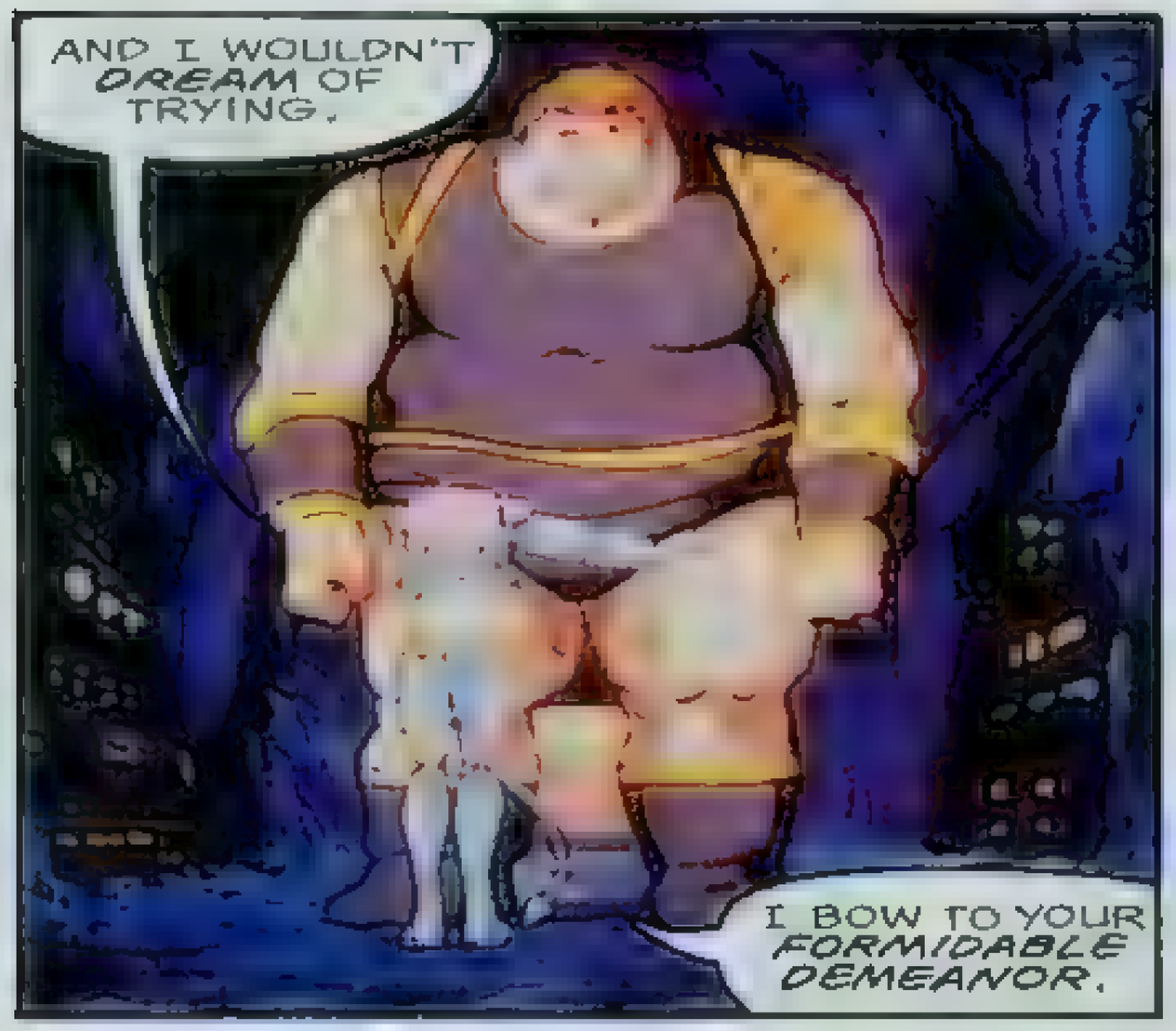
- TO YOUR DEATHS!

DON'T WORRY, NIGHTCRAWLER--

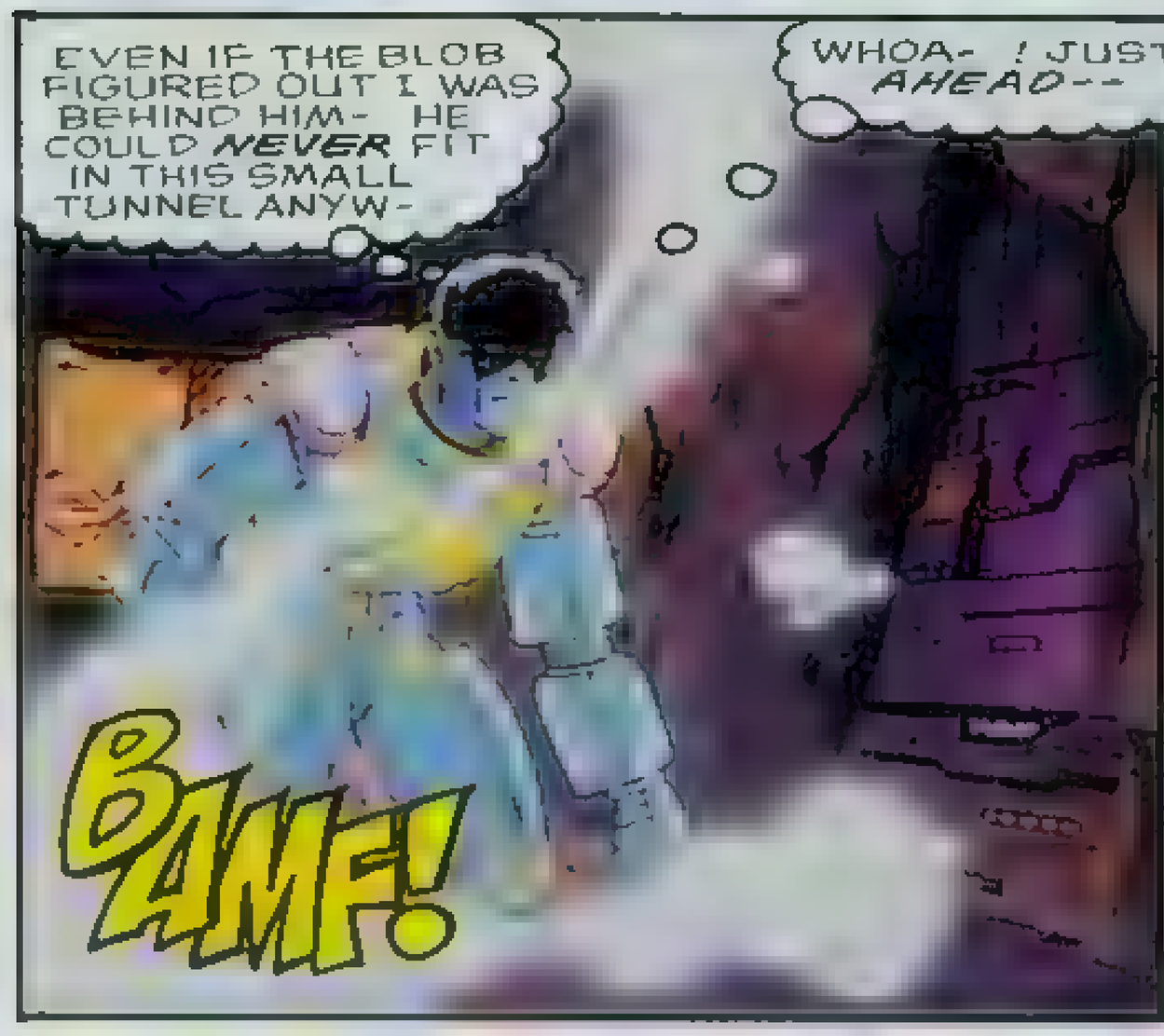
--MY EYE BEAMS CAN DEAL WITH ANY WEAPON SHE CAN TOSS!

CYCLOPS IS KEEPING HER BUSY--SO IT'S ALL UP TO ME!
I MUSTN'T FAIL. SOMEHOW--ALONE--
--I MUST STOP MAGNETO!

THIS IS WHERE YOU STOP. NOTHING CAN MOVE THE BLOB.


AND I WOULDN'T DREAM OF TRYING.
I BOW TO YOUR FORMIDABLE DEMEANOR.

HUH?! WHERE'D HE GO?


EVEN IF THE BLOB FIGURED OUT I WAS BEHIND HIM- HE COULD NEVER FIT IN THIS SMALL TUNNEL ANYW-
WHOA- I JUST AHEAD--
BAMF!

--THE MAN HIMSELF!
NIGHTCRAWLER! DID YOU THINK YOU COULD SNEAK UP ON MAGNETO UNDETECTED?

FASCINATING, ISN'T IT? EARTH SHALL BE DESTROYED IN THREE MINUTES.
NOT IF SOMEONE STOPS YOU!
AH, BUT YOU CAN'T! NO ONE CAN!

SAY GOODBYE TO THIS LIFE, NIGHTCRAWL--
OH, NO YOU DON'T!

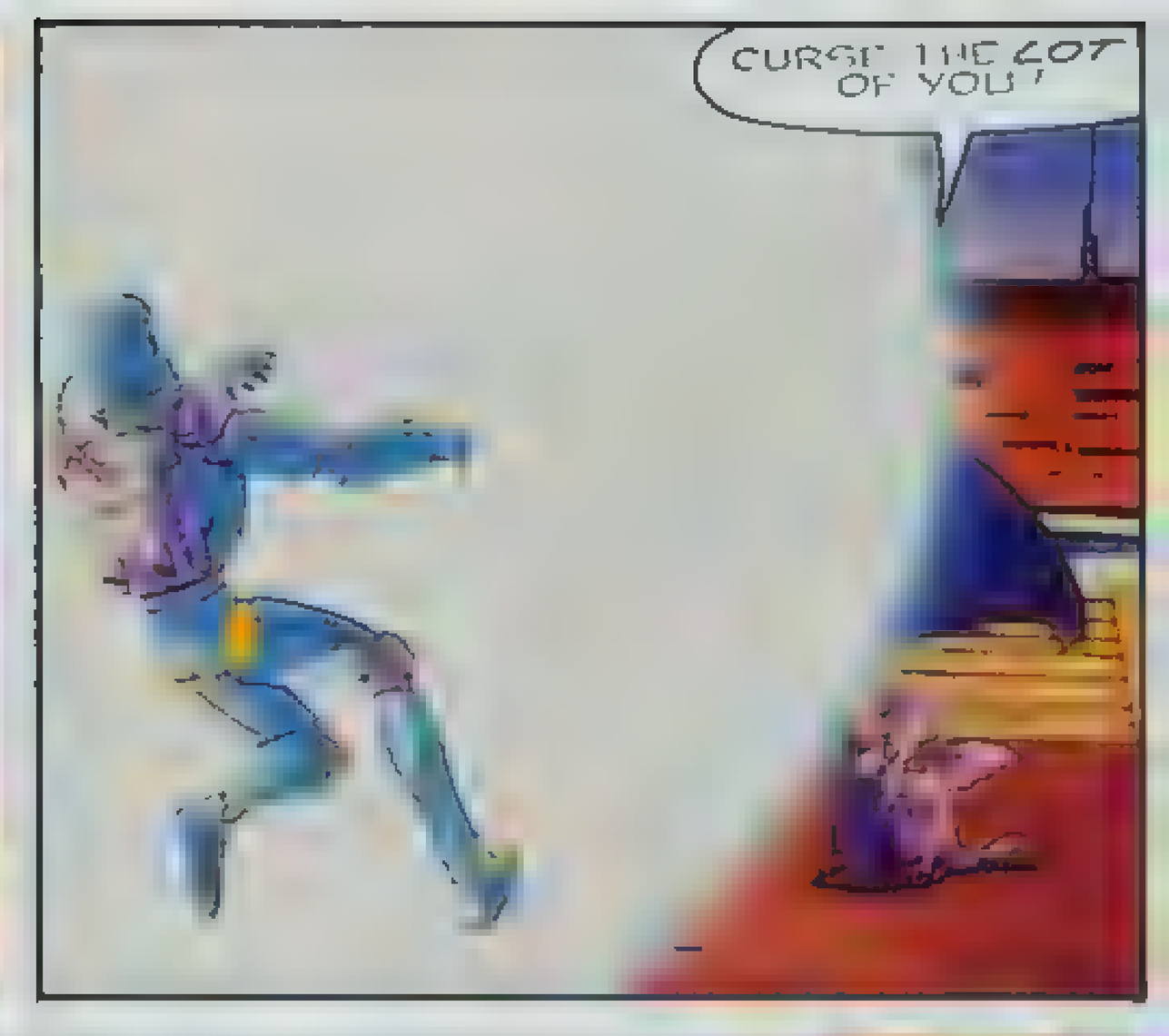
WHAT--?

AAGH!
KLUNK!

CURSE YOU BOTH--!

NOOOO--!

THE MAGNATRON--!

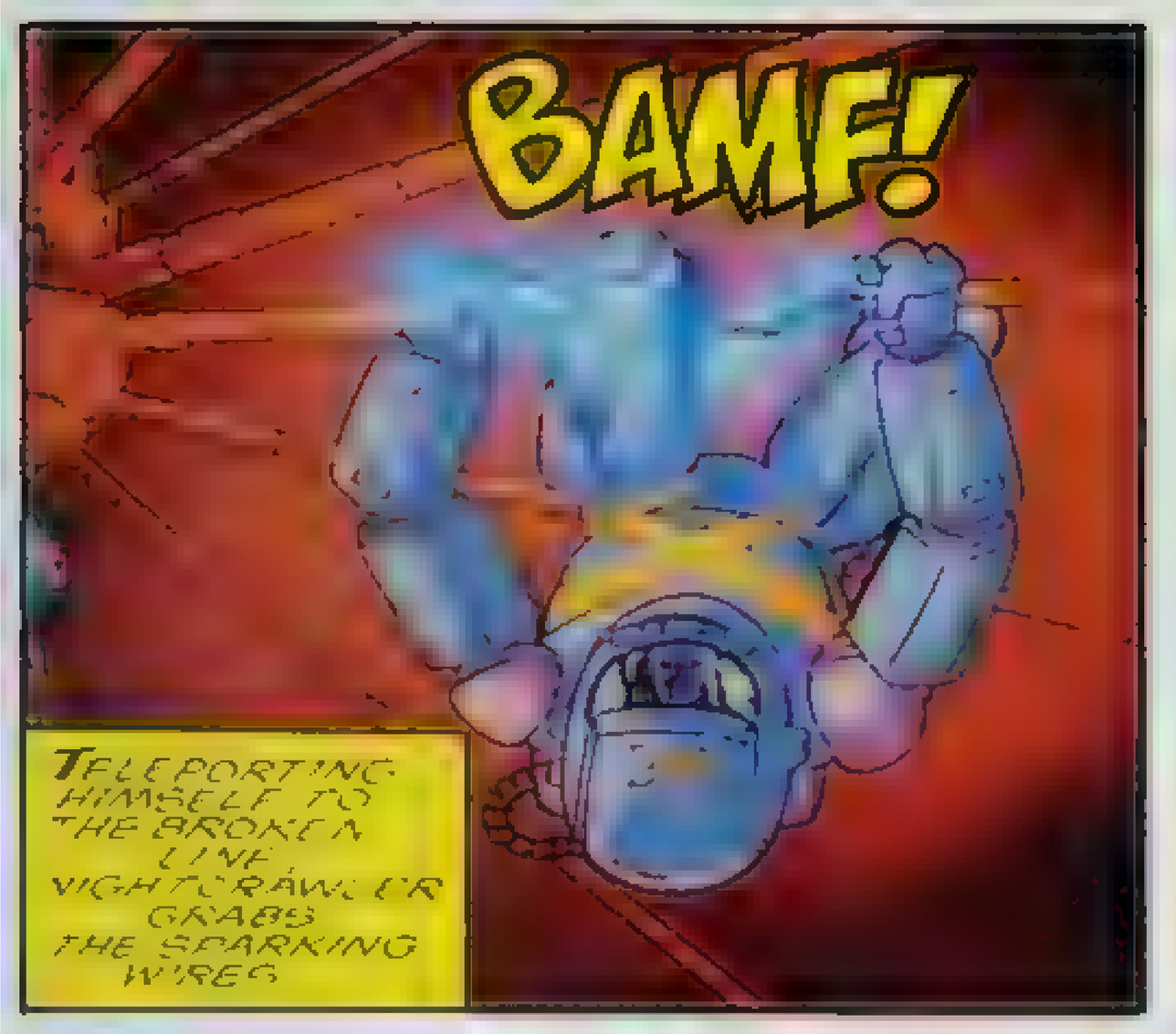

CURSE THE LOT OF YOU!

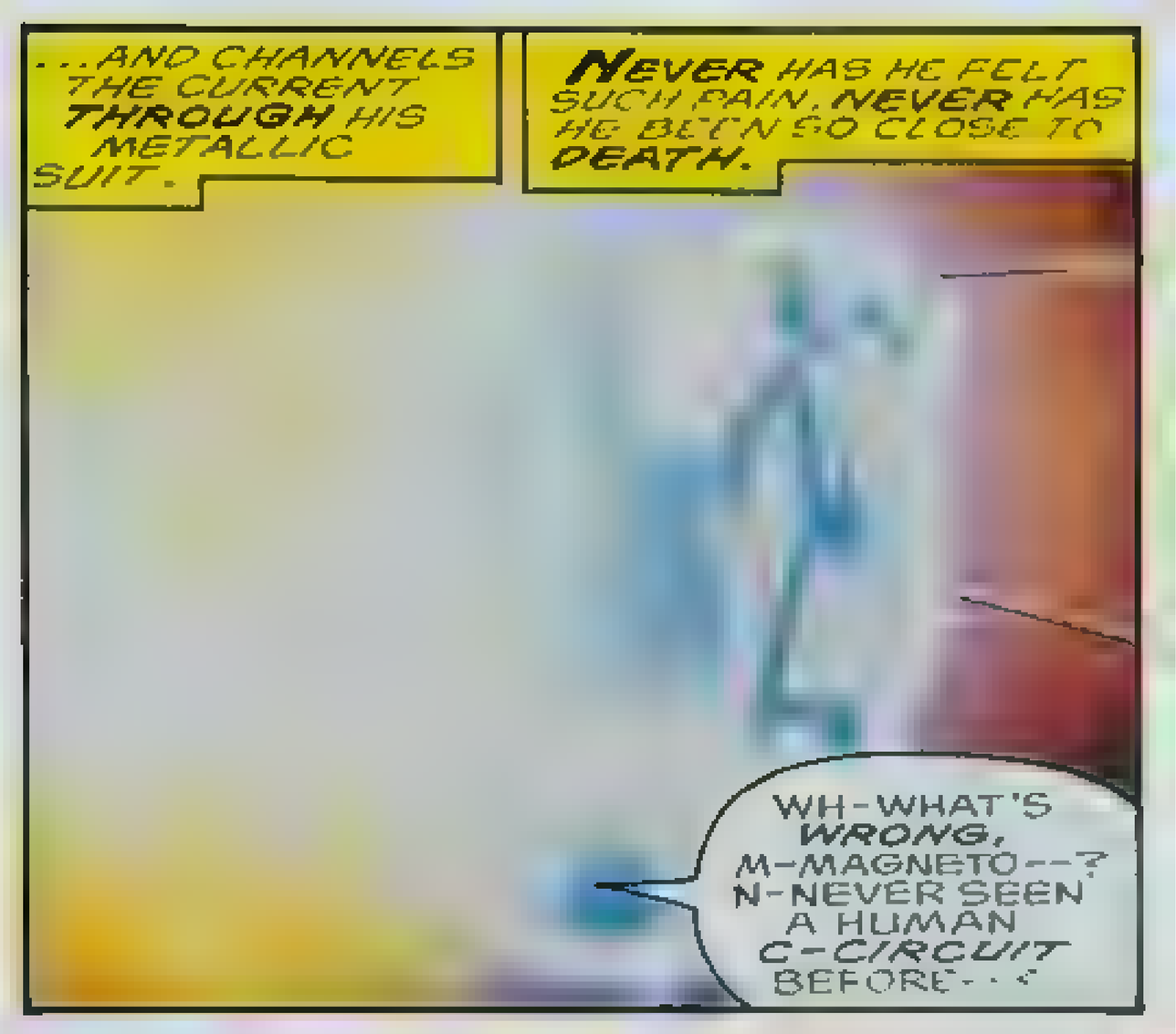
UNF!
WHAM!
UNH!

BUT ALL YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DOING IS DEFEATING *YOURSELVES!*
FOR WITH THE LINE DESTROYED, THERE IS NO WAY TO *REVERSE* WHAT I HAVE SET IN MOTION!
IT IS ALL *OVER*, X-MEN!

NO, MAGNETO IT IS JUST THE *BEGINNING*--

OF YOUR *DEFEAT!*


BAMF!
TELEPORTING HIMSELF TO THE BROKEN LINE NIGHTCRAWLER GRABS THE SPARKING WIRES

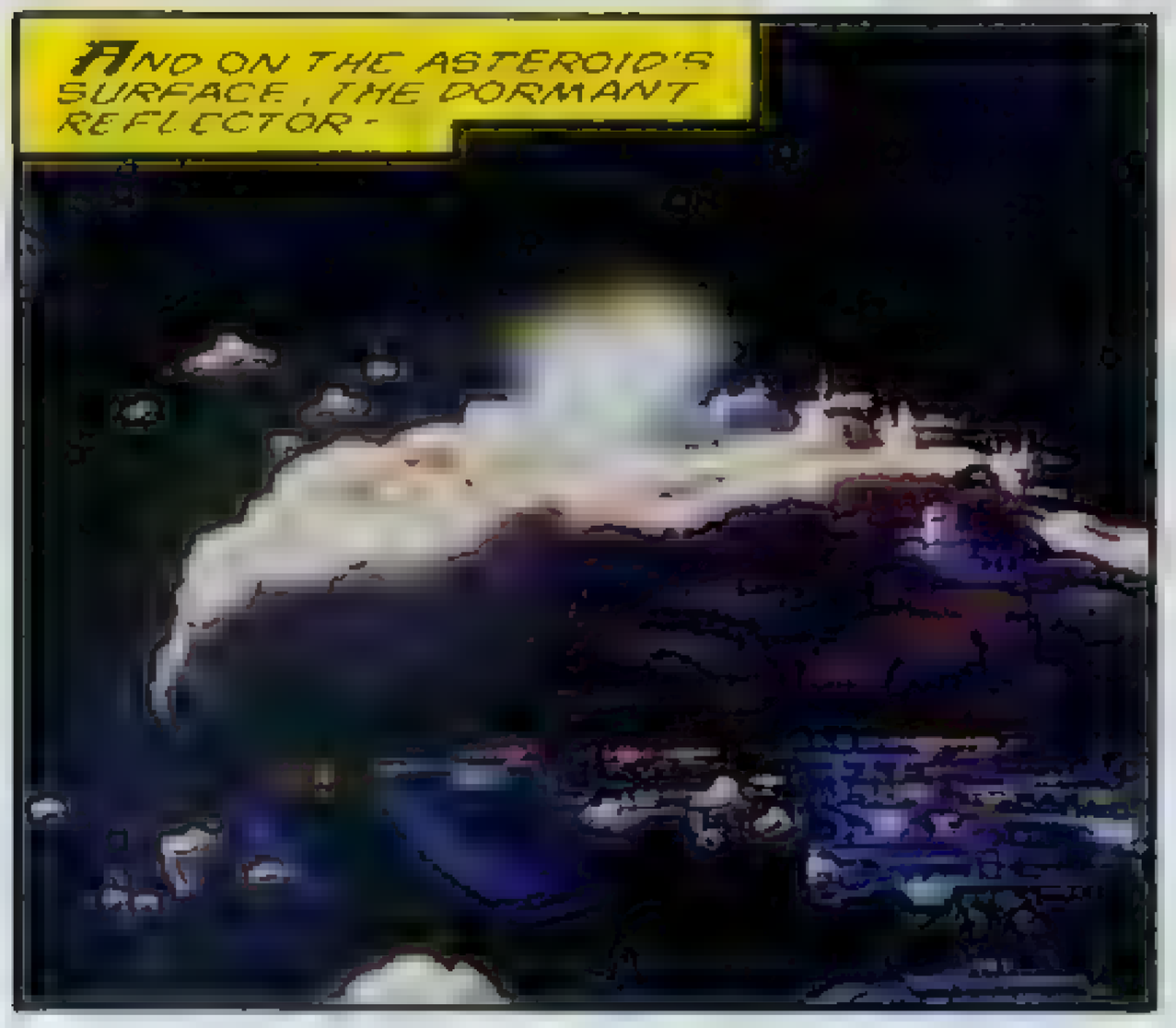

...AND CHANNELS THE CURRENT THROUGH HIS METALLIC SUIT.
NEVER HAS HE FELT SUCH PAIN. NEVER HAS HE BEEN SO CLOSE TO DEATH.
WH-WHAT'S WRONG, M-MAGNETO--? N-NEVER SEEN A HUMAN C-CIRCUIT BEFORE...

I'LL KILL YOU, YOU VILE, FURRY CREAT--
NO!

KITTY'S MOMENTUM HURLS MAGNETO-
BWOM!
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
--ONTO THE POWER PLATFORM!

AND WHEREAS A MOMENT AGO, THE MAGNATRON HAD BEEN POWERLESS...

...THE VERY PRESENCE OF THE EVIL MUTANT'S MAGNETIC-POWERED BODY RE-ENERGIZES THE ENTIRE CIRCUIT.


AND ON THE ASTEROID'S SURFACE, THE DORMANT REFLECTOR -

- HURLS FORTH ANOTHER AWESOME BLAST OF ENERGY

- WHICH HEADS STRAIGHT FOR THE SCORPIO COMET -

- HITS IT DEAD ON

- -AND ALTERS ITS DEADLY COURSE SO THAT IT WILL COLLIDE WITH THE EARTH!

FOOLS! IDIOTS! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE - - ?!
WE'VE JUST STOPPED A MADMAN FROM DESTROYING THE EARTH! AND ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTER
SCORPIO IS NOW GOING TO DESTROY THIS BASE!

YOU *STILL* LOSE, CHILD NIGHTCRAWLER'S OWN *BODY* MUST BE THE *LINK* THAT *COMPLETES* THAT CIRCUIT--

--OR ELSE THE COMET WILL CHANGE COURSE BACK TO *EARTH!*

SO ENJOY YOUR VICTORY...

..WHILE YOU *CAN!*

NIGHTCRAWLER IS THAT *TRUE?*

YES! GET EVERYONE *OFF* THE ASTEROID AT *ONCE!*

BUT I CAN'T LEAVE *YOU!* NOT AFTER THE WAY I'VE TREATED-

GO! *NOW!* JOIN THE *OTHERS!*

I HAVE A *PLAN!*

BUT

GO!

A-ALL RIGHT, NIGHTCRAWLER.

COME ON, LITTLE FELLA.

AT TENTION, X MEN! THIS IS PROFESSOR X! RETURN TO THE BLACKBIRD *NOW!*

"THE COMET WILL STRIKE ANY *SECOND* NOW!"

SHVOOOOOM!

BUT THE X-MEN ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES ESCAPING A HOLE IS BLASTED FROM WITHIN THE ASTEROID.

.. AND MAGNETO AND HIS COHORTS *EMERGE*.

AND AS THE X-MEN ESCAPE INTO STORM'S *AIR-POCKET* ARE PULLED BACK TO THE SHIP BY HER...

...THERE IS ONLY *ONE* MUTANT WHOSE LIFE IS *STILL* IN DANGER.

NIGHTCRAWLER! I'LL KEEP THE BLACKBIRD ON YOUR *VIDEO SCREEN*. DO YOU *SEE* IT?

YES, PROFESSOR X. I SEE THE REST OF THE X-MEN ENTERING THE SHIP EVEN NOW.

GOOD. I CONCUR THAT YOUR PLAN IS YOUR ONLY HOPE. BUT YOU MUST BE *SUPREMELY* CAREFUL.

YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME *WELL*, PROFESSOR DON'T WORRY.

GET READY, NIGHTCRAWLER! SCORPIO STRIKES IN PRECISELY *TEN SECONDS*! YOU'LL HAVE ONLY ONE CHANCE!

INDEED AS THE COMET DRAWS CLOSER...

...ITS GRAVITATIONAL PULL CAUSES MAGNETO'S BASE TO QUAKE AND RUMBLE...

...AND LITERALLY *TEAR ITSELF APART!*

THREE SECONDS TO IMPACT, NIGHTCRAWLER.

TWO.

ONE.

NOW, NIGHTCRAWLER! *NOW!* BEFORE IT'S TOO-

SHWAVOOOOOMM!!

"NIGHTCRAWLER--!"

"PROFESSOR-- WHAT HAPPENED--? DID HE ESCAPE--?"

"I'M NOT SURE, CYCLOPS."

"WAIT —"
BAMF!

- - THERE HE IS - -

- - BEHIND US! AND HE'S ALIVE!
NOT FOR LONG! HE'S ENTERING THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE! HE'LL BURN UP THERE!

NOT IF WE CAN REACH HIM AND GET THE GRAPPLING LINES TO HIM IN TIME, STORM!
HOLD ON! HERE WE GO!

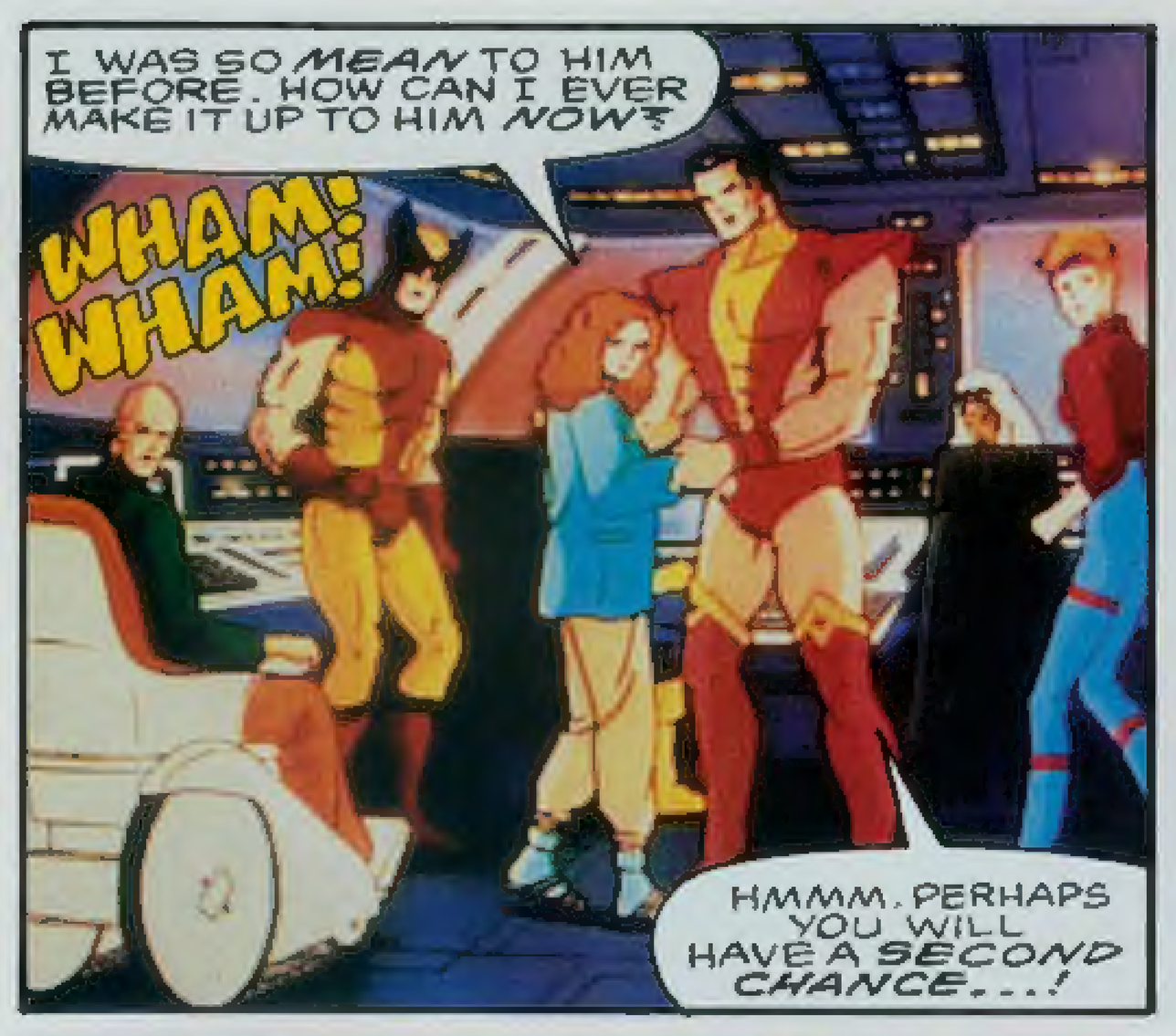
B-BETTER HURRY UP! I-IT'S GETTING P-PLENTY WARM IN HERE!

CYCLOPS PUSHES THE BLACKBIRD AS HARD AS IT CAN BE PUSHED.
AT LAST, WITH NIGHTCRAWLER WITHIN RANGE, THE GRAPPLING LINES ARE RELEASED...

...BUT EVEN AS THEY MOVE CLOSER AND CLOSER TO HIM...

NIGHTCRAWLER'S SUIT GLOWS HOTTER AND HOTTER...

FINALLY REACHING THE MELTING POINT!


I WAS SO MEAN TO HIM BEFORE. HOW CAN I EVER MAKE IT UP TO HIM NOW?
WHAM! WHAM!
HMMM. PERHAPS YOU WILL HAVE A SECOND CHANCE...!

COULD IT BE--?
KOFF KOFF

KOFF KOFF KOFF
R-I-I-I-I-PP!
NIGHTCRAWLER-- MY LITTLE TOVARISCH--

--YOU ARE NOT DEAD AFTER ALL, NO?
NO! I HOPE NOT!

WHA--?

BUT I WOULD HAVE BEEN--
--IF NOT FOR KITTY PRYDE.
BAMF!

I MUST KISS YOUR HAND IN GRATITUDE!

Y-YOU'RE W-WELCOME...

UM...ER... WHAT YOU DID...

...THAT WAS THE *BRAVEST*... MOST *UNSELFISH* THING I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY *LIFE*.

SMACK

DON'T YOU AGREE, FELLA?

ROAARR!

I THINK HE MEANS "YES."

WELL, WOLVERINE--YOU WERE AGAINST KITTY BEING A MEMBER OF THE TEAM.

WHAT DO YOU THINK *NOW*?

THE KID GOT *LUCKY*.

THAT *DON'T* MAKE HER AN X-MAN.

BUT WHATEVER HIS PLANS... WHATEVER HE DOES...

...THE X-MEN WILL BE READY.

THE END.

Wolverine®
Cyclops™
Storm™
Nightcrawler™
Colossus™
Dazzler®

Together they form the X-MEN, the most amazing team of mutant heroes in the world. Led by Professor X, they must defeat the malevolent Magneto and his Brotherhood of Evil Mutants . . . or else all non-mutant mankind dies. And to further complicate their mission, the X-Men must do this while welcoming their newest—and most inexperienced—member, Kitty Pryde!

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